the Commemorative Trail

The Journal of the Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins
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IN THIS ISSUE . . .

A Delaware Discovery . . . by John Kraljevich, Jr.

SOCIETY FOR U.S. COMMEMORATIVE COINS

A Not-for-Profit Corporation

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* * *

Welcome to The Commemorative Trail Fall/Winter Issue - 1991

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Cover Photo: Society member John Kraljevich, Jr., provided the cover photograph for this issue of the Trail. The photo depicts a plaster-of-paris casting of a negative of the reverse of the Delaware Tercentenary half dollar and is one of three photos of the model John provided along with his article reporting the discovery of the casting in a corrugated cardboard wrapping with a label attributing the design to Adam Pietz rather than to the recognized designer, Carl L. Schmitz. We have a new mystery for our Society's scholars to unravel -- a "Who Dunnit?" As if that were not enough, John reports the existence of yet another mystery -- the appearance on the cast in high relief of what seems to be a ... Oh, well, you can read about it in John's article, "A Delaware Discovery."

* * * * * N E W S F L A S H * * * * *

In a hurry? Then just skip over the following three paragraphs and jump down to the special offer below. You can come back to this point when you have the opportunity to enjoy leisurely reading.

From time to time the Trail staff is notified of some special offer, event, happening, occurrence, or fact, which may be of special and immediate interest to our readers. In the future, when we learn of such an "item," we will tell you about it in this "News Flash" column. It isn't possible to anticipate the variety of jubjects that might thus be reported in subsequent issues; however, the criteria are that they should be special and of immediate interest.

If it should happen, for example, that a newly-discovered counterfeit commemorative coin is reported, we would want our readers to know of it as soon as possible and would report it here in "News Flash." Similarly, if we learn of a situation involving fraudulent offerings or practices, you'll read about it here. On the positive side, should we learn of an offer of free auction catalogs, discounts on travel or lodging associated with major conventions at which we hold Society meetings, or reduced subscription rates for important numismatic publications, you'll read about it here.

Not all of our Society members are able to stop the clock when a new Trail arrives in the mail, time to settle back and read the entire issue from cover to cover. In recognition of that fact and because we cannot guarantee that "News Flash" will always appear on a given page in the Trail (a "must-publish item" might arrive after we have already typeset the entire journal and would then have to be squeezed in wherever it might fit -- bumping some other article if necessary), "News Flash" will always be listed on the first line of the Table of Contents! That should make it easy for our readers to locate quickly and to review the article within a matter of minutes. If you are in a frantic rush when the Trail arrives, just open it to the Table of Contents, find the page number for "News Flash," turn to that page, and scan it quickly; it may save you time or money. We invite anyone, whether or not a member of our Society, to submit items suitable for inclusion in "News Flash."

SPECIAL OFFER -- FOR SOCIETY MEMBERS ONLY

If you are not already a subscriber to Numismatic News, we invite your attention to this special offer from the publisher, Mr. Albert "Bo" Smith:

> As a member of our Society, you're entitled to receive a full year -- 52 issues -- of Numismatic News for the low price of $15. That's a substantial savings off the regular $27.95 subscription price! Your order must be received BEFORE JANUARY 31. Respond to "Numismatic News, Circulation Department, 700 East State Street, Iola, WI 54945-9989." Check, money order, VISA, or MasterCard are accepted (for charge-card orders please include card number, the expiration month/year, and your signature). U.S. addresses only. You may order by telephone: (800) 258-0929. When ordering, please mention the Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins (SUSCC) and your Society membership number.

WE THANK YOU, "BO" SMITH, NUMISMATIC NEWS, AND KRAUSE PUBLICATIONS!

* * * * * NAME THAT COMMEM! * * * * *

Above is shown the reverse side of the Isabella quarter dollar. Outlined on the coin is the rectangular area depicted in the extreme close-up photo we left you to ponder in the previous issue of the Trail (Summer Issue, 1991, Vol. 7, No. 2, page 59). Our friend, "Homer," correctly suspected that the XCU was not shown in the proper visual orientation. He suggested that the "spear point" ought to be aimed downward but would not say why. Later we learned that Homer had in mind an Indian pony, spear, and reins -- the pony's "knobby knee" was the clue that convinced him. He was a bit redfaced when he correctly identified the coin to be the Isabella (by studying the pictures in his new "Redbook"). At any rate, Homer succeeded and extended his "winning streak" to two in a row!

The object shown in the XCU is a spindle -- not a spear -- and the kneeling lady is spinning yarn and winding it onto a DISTAFF held in her left hand. It is interesting to note that the "distaff" is an historical symbol for the female side of the family. The term is still commonly in use in horse racing -- when a race is exclusively for fillies or mares, it is a "distaff" race. OK, so what is the male side of the family called, and what is its historical symbol? Well, we were not prepared to answer Homer's question without doing some research. As it turns out, the male side of the family is called the SPEAR side, referring to the warrior function (as opposed to the domestic function), and the historical symbol is, of course, the SPEAR. When we explained all this to Homer, he just grinned and said, "I told you so!" A curious fellow, Homer, always light-years away from the perfect truth, yet oddly close to its core.

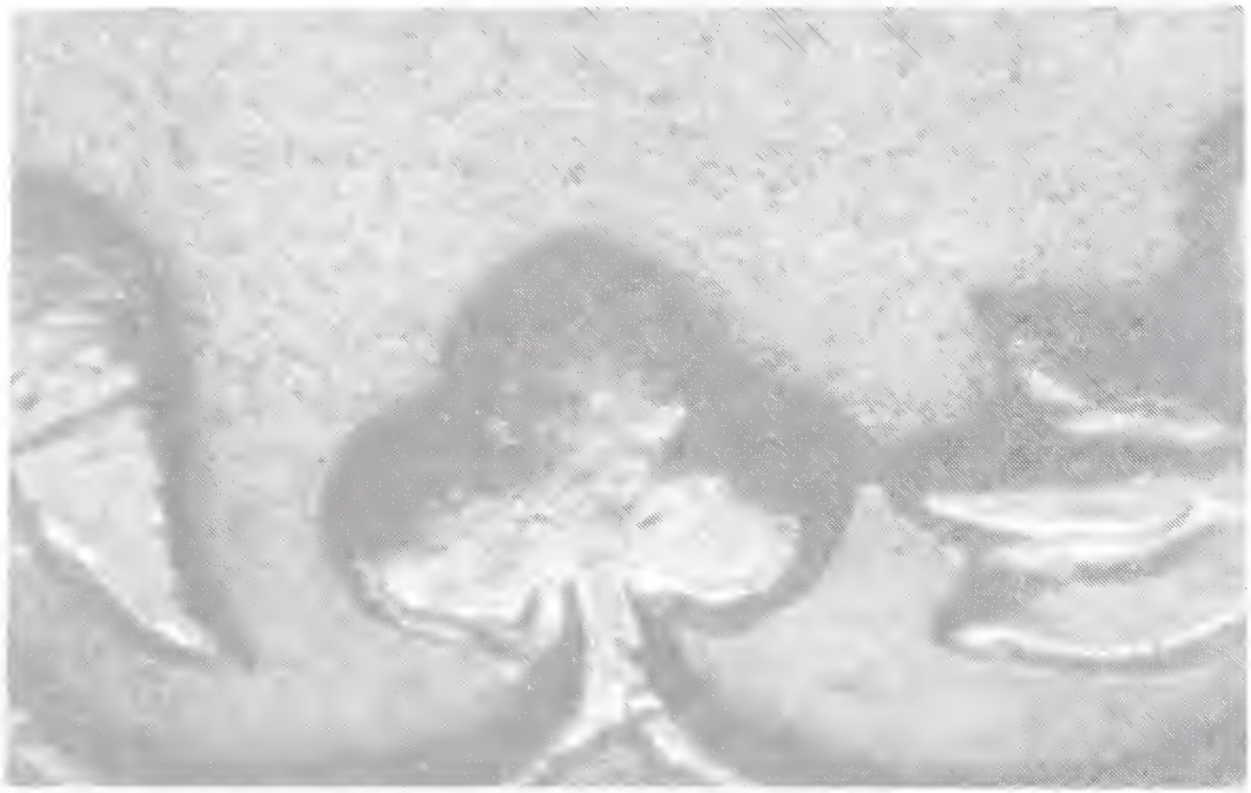
(Photo courtesy of Bill Fivaz)

For our new members: Scattered through the pages of the Trail, you will be seeing photos from Bill Fivaz's slide series, "Name That Commem." The photos come in sets of two, with the first being an XCU (extreme close-up) photograph of some portion of a U.S. commemorative coin (or medal) and the second showing the entire piece with the XCU area outlined on it (as shown above).

The object of this series is for the viewer to look first at the XCU and to determine from what coin or medal it is taken. Bill notes, "It's fun, and it makes people realize that maybe they don't look at their coins quite as closely as they think they do!" We hope our new members will enjoy Bill's delightful series as much as our "old-timers" have. It really is a lot of fun!

For all of our members: Bill Fivaz has sent the Trail a brand new stack of photo-pairs so that we can continue this interesting series. This looks to be a much tougher set than the last. Indeed, Bill wrote: "Jack, I hope these drive the members up the wall!" Well, if anyone can identify each and every one of Bill's XCU's correctly, there is probably some sort of Divine help involved! THANK YOU, BILL FIVAZ!

* * * * * NAME THAT COMMEM! * * * * *



Above is shown an XCU photograph taken from a U.S. commem. Our good friend, Homer, recognized the central figure at once and announced that it was a "club," such as appears in a deck of cards. Homer then told us that such "clubs" were patterned after the three-leafed clover and joked about his Irish friends who were "missing a leaf." He also told us about a Royal Flush he got one night at his poker club, when he drew a queen of clubs to an inside-straight. Do you recognize this coin? Read on ... you'll find the answer. Hmmm! A Royal Flush.

(Photo courtesy of Bill Fivaz)

* * *

A SPECIAL THANKS

Society member PHIL IVERSEN (R-1243, CA), editor of the club bulletin for the San Gabriel Valley Coin Club, gave a special plug to our Society in a recent bulletin. Phil wrote: "If you want to join a club just for collectors of commemoratives just ask me and I'll pay $5 of your initial dues." Now, thats the kind of support our Society needs and appreciates. THANK YOU, PHIL IVERSEN!

* * * * * E D I T O R I A L * * * * *

by Randall Jack Moore (R-1792, CA)

The Same Old Trail

In the last issue of the Trail, outgoing Editor and new Society President, Mike Garofalo, wrote of his mixed emotions about relinquishing the editor's position of our journal. He wrote: "You see, this is MY LAST EDITORIAL." Because I have been involved as assistant editor during the past club year and have put a lot of my heart and soul into working on the Trail, I was keenly aware of what Mike must have been feeling when he wrote that "last" editorial. Mike's words deeply affected me -- and set me to thinking.

Having myself passed along a "torch" or two during the course of my Navy career, I am familiar with the melancholy feeling that one is apt to experience on such occasions. Other publications often feature "guest editorials," so why not the Trail? I think it would be fun to have guest editorials written by our past editors, Frank DuVall, Ray Mercer, Anthony Swiatek, and Mike Garofalo, and also by other former Society officers. Just because these officers have passed the "torch" to someone new is no reason for them to withhold from our readers the splendid wit and wisdom and insight we have enjoyed so much in the past. It is true that each of our Society members is always welcome to submit articles for publication in our journal -- it is a forum for everyone -- but I suspect that our former editors and officers might feel reluctant to "impose" themselves upon our readership by submitting articles of an editorial flavor. With these thoughts in mind, I cordially invite each of our Society's former editors and officers to write guest editorials for the Trail -- on subjects of your choice and whenever you may have the time and inclination! You see, Mike, maybe that wasn't your "last" editorial, after all! Will "Guest Editorial" become a regular column in the Trail? That will depend entirely upon ... well, you understand. It simply will be a very special forum-within-a-forum for the very special people who created and built our Society. We'd all like to hear from you.

Every new editor, every new club officer, every new incumbent in any position probably sets out to repaint the world his favorite color. However, having served as assistant editor under Mike Garofalo during this past club year, much of what otherwise would be the "newness" of this job -- especially typesetting -- is already worn away. Few illusions remain, so I won't be repainting the world. Oh, sure, I've got a few ideas about improving the Trail, and I'll do my best to make what improvements I can -- same as anyone would -- but most of these ideas were given to me by others. Up to this point my most creative contribution to the Trail has been to find ways in which we could squeeze more information into a given space! Also, I have had more than a little fun with our mythical friend, "Homer," and his comments about Bill Fivaz's wonderful photo-series, "Name that Commem!" I hope we'll always have room in the Trail for this sort of fun.

Other innovations? Well, I have one. I am thinking of a regular column called "Member in the Spotlight." Our Society is blessed with a remarkably diverse membership of truly outstanding human beings. One, for example, built a boat with his own hands and sailed in the wake of Columbus across the Atlantic (single-handedly). In this issue we "spotlight" member Rodger W. Bridwell and his interest in Columbus and Queen Isabella. In the next issue we'll tell you the story of a young American fighter-pilot with the Flying Tigers, who was shot

down fifty years ago over Burma by a Japanese Zero. He survived World War II to become a veteran of the numismatic bourse circuit as well. If you are at all curious about the human-interest side of life, you'll be fascinated by these true-life stories about our Society members. As Homer would say, "Neat Stuff!" If you like the idea, let us know; if not, we'll drop it. Innovations aside, we'll be following the path of "The Same Old Trail."

Mike Garofalo has already written about the "joys" of typesetting each issue. Because of a catastrophic computer failure, I have had the "joy" of typesetting this issue twice, which is one reason it is a bit late in reaching you.

On other matters...it is appropriate to comment here on the ANA Centennial Anniversary Convention. In the previous issue of the Trail, we urged our members to attend this grand event, and many of them did. Typically, every coin show (and we have about 2,100 shows each year in the U.S.) results in numerous complaints from collectors, club officers, or bourse dealers. It is singularly noteworthy that not one complaint about this ANA show has yet reached the ears of your editor. Ruthann Brettell, director of ANA conventions, really outdid herself this time, and her accomplishment deserves national recognition and the praise of everyone who attended the show in Rosemont. Ruthann does a splendid job in staging ANA conventions -- especially, given that she has to respond to the on-again/off-again decisions of the ANA Board of Governors. I know all who attended the ANA Centennial Convention will join in saying to Ruthann Brettell and to all who helped: "Thank You for a Job Well Done!"

* * * * * NAME THAT COMMEM! * * * * *

Above is depicted the obverse of the beautiful Isabella quarter dollar, issued in 1893, in conjunction with the World's Columbian Exposition. The XCU from the previous photo is outlined on the crown. The Board of Lady Managers, who took full charge of the project, specified that the coins must have female motifs, and they surely do! In his newly released book, Commemorative Coins of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia, author and Society member Q. David Bowers devoted six full pages to this unique coin. [Is there another U.S. coin with a female motif on both sides?] Homer guessed this one correctly, giving him three in a row! We hope you did as well. If not, try the next one.

(Photo courtesy of Bill Fivaz)

* * * * * THE PRESIDENTIAL DEPARTMENT * * * * *

by Michael K. Garofalo (LM-23, NH)

Footsteps Along the Trail

As I seem to continue to follow in the footsteps of our Society's illustrious friend, Ray Mercer, I would like to do as Ray did and thank all of our past officers for their excellent work in both promoting and maintaining the ethics and integrity of our Society. Without their dedication and tireless efforts, our Society might be only a memory today.

In what direction would I like to see the Society go in 1992? Well, I think that we have a very capable staff of officers who display a fine mix of experience and enthusiasm. I anticipate that we will be able to continue to focus on education as our primary goal. I would like to see the number of our meetings at major conventions greatly expanded, and I see no reason why that cannot be accomplished with YOUR help. We need volunteers to conduct our educational forums. If you have never shared your knowledge with your fellow Society members, I think that it is time that you did. If you are a veteran speaker but have not been active for a while with us, I cordially invite you to do so. We need YOU and YOUR knowledge. If you don't contact me, I might call you.

We need to keep a steady flow of stories, articles, letters, and photographs heading to Journal Editor, Randall Jack Moore. Believe me, I understand how difficult it is to face each issue. It is even worse if there is a drought of submissions. Please, review your library, your files, and your photos. Send something to Jack Moore -- TODAY!

We also need your financial support. After the number of 60+ page journals that we have delivered to you over the last 12 months, the Treasury is getting a little light. When you are sending in your dues to Helen L. Carmody, please include a few extra dollars for our Society. Although we are in the process of modestly raising our dues from $15 to $20, we still need your support. Printing and postage costs have all skyrocketed, and we have continued to hold the line. Look, I know that we are in a very tough economic climate, but every dollar you contribute will go toward keeping our Society going. We could very easily sell 20-30 pages of advertising in each issue of our journal. But we won't do that! We want you to receive only objective information from us. You are subjected to enough hype and pressure from other sources.

We need you to help Vice President Helen L. Carmody increase our membership rolls. Our membership ranks continue to increase -- but very slowly. Please sign up a friend, acquaintance, or fellow collector. Take a few of our membership applications [see back cover of this issue] to your next club meeting. How about donating a membership in our Society to a worthy young numismatist? Or how about even to a worthy old numismatist?

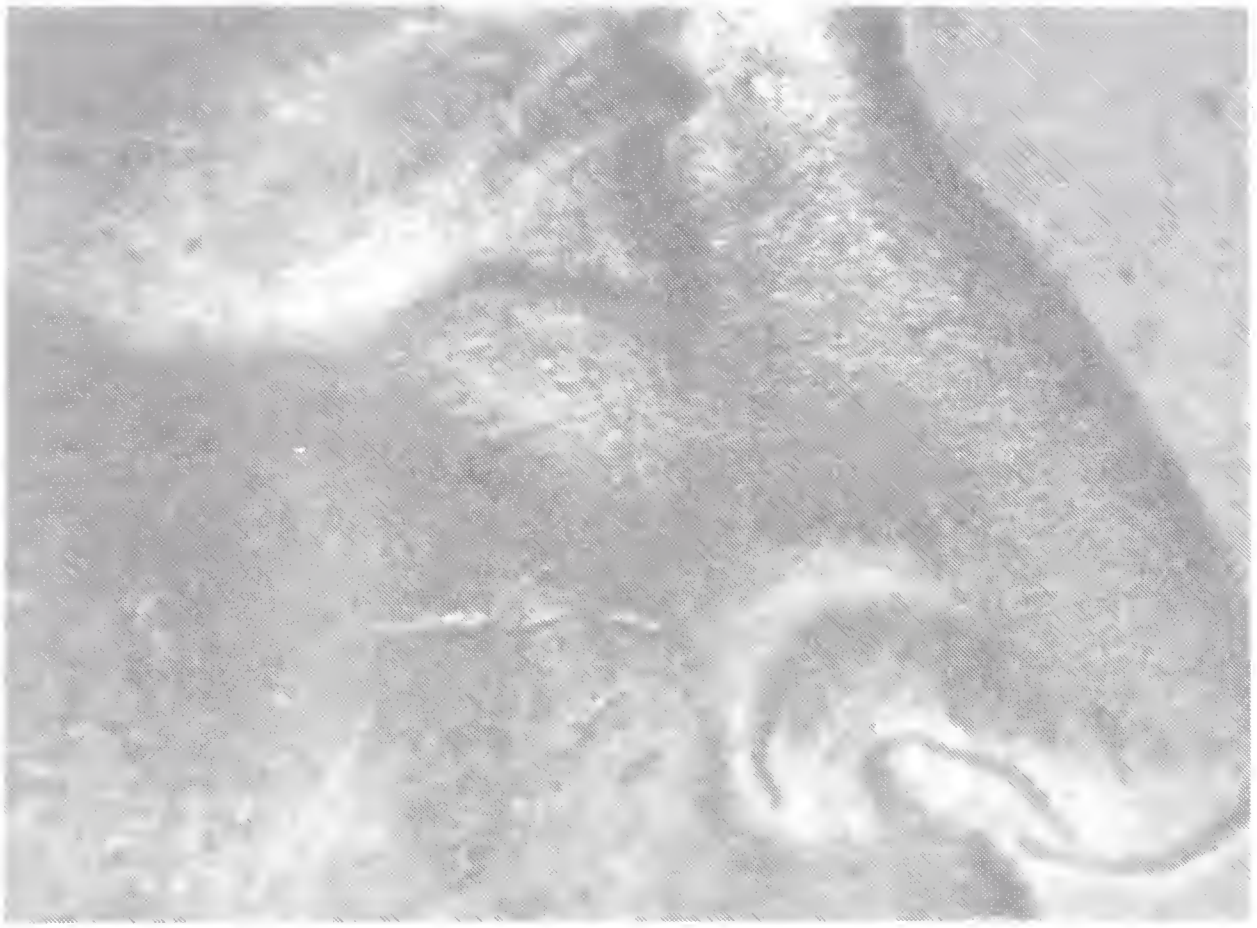
I would like to set an ambitious plan for 1992 for our Society. I would like us to be the most active national organization in numismatics. I would like us to have a very full agenda of seminars and presentations at each and every major coin convention across America. I would like our journal to continue to be the best bargain in numismatics. Perhaps we can average 100 pages in each

issue. We can do it ... if YOU will help Jack Moore.

I would also like to increase membership in our Society during 1992 by at least 50%. If each of YOU signs up a couple of new members, we can easily meet and surpass this goal. If even half of our members each recruited a new member, we could achieve the 50% goal; it really is up to YOU!

Lastly, I want to thank all of you for your help when I was editor of our newsletter/journal and for your encouragement as I assume my new duties. YOU have made all of my efforts and sacrifices worthwhile, and I am very grateful. Thank You!

* * * * * NAME THAT COMMEM! * * * * *



A nose by any other name is still a nose! Homer's observation was, "Wow, what a honker!" Homer said it looks like Daniel Boone's nose but that it was pointed right instead of left. For the answer ... well, you know. Read on!

(Photo courtesy of Bill Fivaz)

* * * * * THE VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE * * * * *

by Helen L. Carmody (R-0007, CA)

A Special Thanks to Helping Hands Along the Trail

Generally speaking, I use my department to implore readers to recruit a new member, to submit an article for our journal, to make a donation, to present a program at one of our meetings, or in some other way to become "involved" in the Society's activities. Our president, Mike Garofalo, has already done that -- and very well, I might add -- in his column.

Consequently, I can now take advantage of the space allotted to me to thank several of our members who have distinguished themselves by actions of selfless dedication and support for our club.

RICHARD A. BACCA (R-1751, CT) has given of his computer expertise to create our original applications for membership and a new form contained in this issue that incorporates dues increases and other features the officers have found necessary to implement. Members may use this application by merely photocopying the back page, leaving the journal intact. What is more, one copy produces three applications just by cutting along between each form. Had the Society hired a commercial graphics designer to perform this job, the fee would have been approximately $200.

Q. DAVID BOWERS (R-0548, NH) has expanded our knowledge regarding our favorite series of numismatics with the publication of his new book, Commemorative Coins of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia, and graciously donated the No. 4 copy of the deluxe hardbound edition to our library. In addition, he also publicized the Society in his Kingswood Galleries catalog of The Exeter Sale. Our club was given a surprise, non-paid "advertisement," citing pertinent enrollment information. Dave also kindly mentioned how much he enjoys being a member and encouraged others to join. By his doing so, thousands upon thousands of serious numismatists learned about our club who otherwise might never have known of its existence.

TERESA DARLING (R-0727, CA), SAMUEL L. LOPRESTO (R-0038, CA), GUS ARGERIS (R-0137, CA), and DALE B. SNYDER (R-0981, CA) have promoted the Society since its earliest days. Without their invaluable assistance and cooperation, our successful Long Beach Expo meetings would never exist. We never asked; they offered! We needed; they gave! No matter what the situation, they are always ready to help. There will never be a way to repay their many, many, kindnesses.

YITZCHAK GEDALOWITZ (R-0467, MD) has been responsible for $365 being added to our treasury, which will greatly help to defray operating expenses. By donating the materials for our last Society auction instead of selling them for his own personal gain, "Yitzie" has assured that our entire membership will benefit from his generosity.

LARRY J. SHEPHERD (R-0834, OH) used the sale of his collection to publicize the Society by distributing membership application forms and copies of the Trail, which were sent to him at his expense to the auction site. As a result, news of our efforts reached serious commemorative enthusiasts, and one need look no further than to the "New Members" section to see the positive results.

VERNON L. TIPKA (R-1003, OR), editor of the Mid-Valley Coin Club newsletter, devoted space in two recent issues to elaborate on our journal and, in general, to praise our entire organization. Declaring that Society membership is "worth every penny," Tip had back editions of the Trail available for Mid-Valley members to examine and even reproduced our membership application form, urging that it be mailed immediately.

THE MEMBERS OF THE NUMISMATIC PRESS have come to our aid since our very first meeting at San Diego, California. Without their power to reach collectors all across the country and their courtesy in reporting on our accomplishments during the past eight years, our membership would not have grown as it has. They have more than confirmed that theirs is not just a profession but a true

dedication to the hobby.

Saying "Thank You" is not nearly enough. However, I am hopeful that in some small way I have conveyed our deepest gratitude for promoting our Society to the very best of their abilities. We are all in their debt.

If by any chance any member is fortunate enough to encounter any of the individuals noted above, please do not hesitate to express your appreciation to these Society boosters.

* * *

* * * * * THE YOUNG NUMISMATIST'S REPORT * * * * *

by Neil C. Watson (J-0063, CA)

A Colorado Trek

Well, I'm back from Colorado. I, as well as other YNs who attended the ANA Summer Seminar, had a great time. The course I took, the "SuperCourse" taught by Mike Fuljenz, was a tremendous opportunity for me.

We learned about the technicalities of grading uncirculated commems, Morgan dollars, and gold coins. All of us, four YNs and nine adults, enjoyed viewing MS-65 gold and examples of every commem except for the Isabella, Lafayette, and Hawaiian. Among these the MS-65 and MS-65/prooflike Columbians were my favorites. Many examples of Morgans included PR-67 1901, 1902, and 1903 dollars.

While it was called the ANA Summer Seminar, it was not entirely classroom work. We took trips to see the Royal Gorge (1,053 feet above the Arkansas River) and to Seven Falls. We also went to Fargo's Pizza (the city's most famous pizza parlor), and we were able to go go-carting in the rain. I had a really splendid experience and will remember it for a long time to come!

In closing, I would like to thank Helen and Don Carmody, Manny and Teri Acosta, Mike Fuljenz, James Taylor, and the ANA staff for making this wonderful week possible. If any of you ever have a chance to attend this exciting program, go for it!

Your YN Rep, Neil

* * *

* * * * * JUST A REMINDER * * * * *

Neil Watson, our Society's YN Rep has reminded us that he will soon be too "O.N." to be "Y.N." Neil will be voting in the 1992 federal election, and our Society will soon be needing a replacement for him. Ah, the passage of time; somehow we all get to feeling a little bit too "O.N." Anyway, put on your thinking caps, and send in your recommendations. Our elections is in July.

* * * * * NAME THAT COMMEM! * * * * *

Above is shown the Columbian half dollar, the first of the commemorative series of coins. Homer missed this one but did have a few good guesses. As he often does, Homer shared with us one of his new "flash ideas." He asked us how many noses appear on U.S. commems? Well, that question stumped your editor, as you may well imagine, and Homer immediately suggested that Bill Fivaz should start an entirely new photo-series to be called "Name that Nose." After first rejecting Homer's idea out of hand, we got to thinking about it. Hmmm! Might be fun at that. You just never know about some of Homer's "wacko" ideas!
(Photo courtesy of Bill Fivaz)

* * *

* * * * * LETTERS TO THE EDITOR * * * * *

One of the "Letters to the Editor" in the previous issue of the Trail was a suggestion from Matthew Vaznaian (R-1871, RI) that we include a Society membership application in each future issue. We liked Matthew's idea. However, even before we could begin to make arrangements for the design of a new membership application, we received the following:

Dear Editor: I am enclosing four sets of laser-printed masters of a new membership application for our Society. These contain three forms on each page. From these you can produce high-quality copies. The Trail printer can also use one of these to produce an equivalent in our journal for all members to use. You might also want to consider a one-time insert of the triple-application sheet to be sent along with the Trail. Members could then duplicate three forms at a time. This would be a little more costly, since it requires that someone has to stuff the insert sheet along with the journal into the envelope. Instead you might consider a one-time printing of the triple application once a year (perhaps on the inside of the back cover). You've got many options to choose from, all of which will work. Good luck! Very truly yours, DICK BACCA (R-1751, CT).

Editor's Reply: Dick, needless to say, I was somewhat overwhelmed by the speed and quality of your response to Matthew's suggestion. Without being asked to do so, you've provided an "aspirin" for what was looming as a major "headache" for our Society. If you haven't done so already, take a peek at the outside back cover of this issue. We thank you!

[A Note for the Reader: Your fledgling editor was in attendance at an awards ceremony at the ANA Early Spring Convention in San Diego when Robert J. Leuver, ANA executive director, presented a special award to Dick Bacca for outstanding service to our hobby in his capacity as an ANA district delegate. Because Dick was unable to be present, Ray Mercer accepted the award on his behalf. Helen Carmody, Ray Mercer, and many others have spoken so highly of Dick Bacca that no one should be surprised at this supberb example of his dedication to our hobby.]

Dear Editor: As a new member of the SUSCC, I would like to make a gift to the Society of the enclosed 1950-S Booker T. Washington half dollar (PCGS MS-65). You may include it in one of the auctions or simply sell it outright, whichever is your inclination. I enjoyed receiving and reading my first copy of the Trail very much. It's a lot more polished than the 10-12 page newsletter I was kind of expecting. At any rate, I hope to be an active member of the Society and I look forward to meeting and comparing notes with other lovers of commemorative coins. Until then, I look forward to the next Trail. Sincerely, CARL FUNK (R-1996, WA).

Editor's Reply: Carl, I am a member of more than thirty coin clubs and am a devout reader of every publication that comes my way. I share your pleasure in discovering that your first issue of the Trail exceeded your expectations. I felt exactly the same way when I received my first issue. Compared with other club publications that had arrived in my mailbox over the years, the Trail was always the most interesting. Since its founding in 1983, our Society has grown steadily, and our publication has kept pace. What was envisioned by our founders just eight short years ago has become reality and perhaps has even surpassed their initial expectations. That growth is in large part attributable to donations made by our members, and, while it isn't every day that someone donates a PCGS MS-65 commem for a Society auction, the donations from our members keep our Society afloat! Carl, we thank you!

Dear Editor: First, I would like to take this opportunity to compliment you and all of the Trail staff on the production of a first-rate and highly informative publication. Due to the severe time constrictions associated with my business, I am seldom able personally to attend many coin shows and very much look forward to receiving the Trail, especially the excerpts from Ray Mercer's A Buyer's Guide, and to the "Show Reports." It is the next best thing to being there! Please accept my appreciation for your fine work and endeavors in making Mr. Ray Mercer's hard-to-get volumes available to his reading public. Also please express my desire to him that he publish the third volume thereof!
Very truly yours, LOUIS S. JOSEPH (R-1959, TX).

Editor's Reply: I appreciate that you have taken time out of what is obviously a very busy personal schedule in order to compliment the Trail and am pleased that our journal proved helpful to you in obtaining the first two volumes of Ray Mercer's magnificent works. Your letter and many others like it indicate a strong demand for the as-yet-unpublished Volume Three. There are a few copies of Volume One and of Volume Two still available at $25 and $20, respectively. Meanwhile, as much as we each want to see Volume Three, I don't think it is entirely fair of us to ask Ray to plunge into another expensive publishing venture

until the first two editions are sold out -- especially not when he is graciously allowing the Trail to reprint articles from Volume One. [For information about the availability of Volumes One and Two, please contact Helen L. Carmody, SUSCC, P.O. Box 302, Huntington Beach, CA 92648-0302.]

Dear Editor: I submit the enclosed article for your consideration for publication in the next issue of the Trail. The article is a report on the ANA Summer Seminar which was held from July 7-13 in Colorado Springs. I thought our readers might be interested in the seminar's program. Enclosed for possible inclusion with the article is a picture of ANA headquarters. You may also wish to reprint an ANA logo with the article. Very truly yours, DONALD SCARINCI (R-1934, NJ).

Editor's Reply: Thank you for your letter and for your article, which is also included in this issue of the Trail. I'd also like to thank you for championing this splendid ANA program. All who attend give it rave reviews! As to the ANA logo, we don't have a photo-master suitable for reprinting. However, we noted that, on the postcard you sent of ANA Headquarters, the old ANA logo (the lamp) still appears near the front entrance to the building. The new logo (the eagle) has stirred some controversy, and not all who voted for it are happy with their decisions. By the way, Donald, the ANA Seminars do sometimes include investment advice, as you know, but our journal avoids that subject as a matter of policy, which is why we excised a couple of paragraphs from your article. Again, thank you for taking time to share this experience with our readers! Well Done!

Dear Editor: Enclosed is an article I have written regarding a newly uncovered plaster-of-paris negative model of the reverse of the 1936 Delaware Tercentenary commemorative half dollar. Also enclosed are three photographs of the casting. I hope this article is not too long. Thanks for the opportunity to write, and I hope our Society members enjoy the article. I would like to learn more about this piece. Sincerely, JOHN KRALJEVICH, JR. (J-0067, PA).

Editor's Reply: John, thank you for submitting this very interesting report. Your article and all three of the photos you submitted appear in this edition of the Trail. I hope that you were pleasantly surprised to see one of your photos on the front cover of this issue. New discoveries are always of primary interest to our readers, and yours is no exception. Your article was not "too long." If anything, it was too short! Our readers will be eager to learn the details of your discovery -- the when, where, why, and how? We certainly want to hear more from you on this exciting find. May our Society make arrangements for photographing this cast for inclusion in our historical files and for publication in future issues of the Trail? It would be helpful to have someone such as Bill Fivaz make full-page, blow-up photos of this model for comparison with similar pictures of the official design used on the coin and on other plaster models as well. Although I am by no means an expert in these matters, I did notice a few design differences between the coin and the plaster model on which you have reported. Just for example, whereas the coin displays three diamond shapes (at either side of the dates and between them), your photos show a dot between the dates and a half diamond on the right side of the dates (on the right side of the negative model, that is, by the date "1638"). Your speculations regarding this model are provocative; numismatic historians will have their work cut out for them in determining whether it was Adam Pietz or Carl Schmitz who was first with this design. I share your curiosity in learning more about this subject! Thank you, John, for sharing this discovery with us. Please stay in touch!

* * *

* * * * * NEW MEMBERS * * * * *

We are delighted to report that our Society is growing by leaps and bounds. A sincere welcome to the following individuals who have become members since the publication of the previous issue of the Trail:

Bloechl, Steve ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Boitnott, David W. ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Bridwell, Rodger W. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Carlson, Bruce E. ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Cerda, Patrick ..... Proposed by Randall Jack Moore
Cohen, John E. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Comerford, William J. ... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Cook, Vernon H. ..... Enrolled as a result of Coin World publicity/Carmodys
Cornell, Stephen A. ..... Proposed by Ed Mulhausen
DeAngelis, Jack A. ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Dell'Olio, Michael J. ... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Deisher, Beth ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Devlin, Steven J. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Downs, Timothy ..... Proposed by Mitchell A. Yee
Ehlers, Mark G. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Engle, Kerry Dawn ..... Proposed by Randall Jack Moore
Ensley, Donald P. ..... Enrolled as a result of Coin World publicity/Carmodys
Ferrell, T. James ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Finkelstein, Seymour .... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Forrey, Elaine R. ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Friend, Jerry ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Funk, Carl R. ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Galindo, Frank ..... Proposed by Randall Jack Moore
Gibson, Ronald L. ..... Enrolled as a result of Coin World publicity/Carmodys
Gilbert, Sr., Gary J. ... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Glenski, Alan R. ..... Proposed by Barbara L. Garofalo
Hagen, David D. ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Hartsfield, Brian N. .... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Hee, Martin H. P. ..... Proposed by Al Kreuzer
Hernandez, Mark R. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Hornal, John R. ("Scott") Proposed by Robert L. Hall
Johns, Chris ..... Proposed by Randall Jack Moore
Johnson, Jr., Robert E. . Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Jorgensen, Evan C. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Kamis, Jim J. ..... Enrolled as a result of Coin World publicity/Carmodys
Katz, Marvin ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Kranz, Jr., Robert J. ... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Kraus, Frank L. ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Kummer, Tom ..... Proposed by Joseph R. O'Connor
Lane, Robert ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Lehmann, Robert ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Letendre, Larry P. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Lewis, John G. ..... Proposed by Randall Jack Moore
Lightner, Bob ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Logan, Scott A. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Lopes, Randy E. ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
MacIntyre, David ..... Proposed by Matthew J. Vaznaian
(continued)

New Members (continued)

Marshall, Tom D. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Masten, Doug ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
McConnach, Kelly A. ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Molloy, Christopher D. .. Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Moore, Kimberly Anne .... Proposed by Randall Jack Moore
Mucaria, Benedict A. .... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Natale, Michael L. ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Nelson, Ph.D., Ralph W. . Proposed by Randall Jack Moore
Nowak, Welville B. ..... Proposed by Mitchell A. Yee
Okumura, Mae ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Olivos, Kathryn Lynne ... Proposed by Randall Jack Moore
Pailet, Mike ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Pancheco, Alex A. ..... Proposed by Vernon L. Tipka
Pelz, David W. ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Raines, M.D., J. R. ..... Proposed by Vernon L. Tipka
Rogerman, Steven E. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Rovelstad, Gloria G. .... Proposed by Anthony Swiatek
Saage, Wallace ..... Proposed by Randall Jack Moore
Schuch, John L. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Silverstein, Nancy ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Smith, Donald E. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Smith, Paul L. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Stevens, Edward E. ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Stofle, Jim ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Sueoka, Alan T. ..... Proposed by James J. Dooley
Susky, James W. ..... Proposed by Robert L. Hall
Tams, Jim F. ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Toeller, Henry ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Tyler, Timothy N. ..... Proposed by Mitchell A. Yee
Walus, Lee R. ..... Proposed by Mitchell A. Yee
Watson, Mark C. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Weinschel, Moe ..... Proposed by Randall Jack Moore
Whyborn, Raymond E. ..... Proposed by Randall Jack Moore
Wilk, Lewis A. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Willis, Herman C. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Wilson, Bruce L. ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Wimbiscus, John W. ..... Proposed by Bob Walter
Zaccardi, Vincent T. .... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Zmuda, John A. ..... Enrolled as a result of Coin World publicity/Carmodys

Recruitment was especially successful during the ANA Centennial Convention and as a result of Larry J. Shepherd's efforts in connection with the sale of his fabulous collection by Superior Galleries on the prior weekend. "Seeing is believing," so it is said; and it must be true! Larry Shepherd paid for shipping a large printing-overrun of the issue of the Trail and distributed copies of our journal to individuals attending the auction and the subsequent ANA convention. The result of Larry's efforts are immediately apparent in the list of new members above. We thank you, LARRY SHEPHERD!

Helen and Don Carmody once again devoted the bulk of their time at the ANA convention to boosting interest in our specialty and in our Society. Their bourse table [O'Carmody's Coins] was frequently crowded with inquisitive commem enthusiasts who were there to take advantage of the endless generosity of the

Carmodys in sharing their knowledge, insight, and wit. As is always the case, the Carmodys had on hand copies of back issues of the Trail and a stack of Society membership application forms -- the results of which are clearly evident in the above listing of new members! Thank you HELEN and DON!

As always we are indebted to the numismatic press for publishing articles about commemorative coins [see "Recommended Reading"] and especially when they mention our Society mailing address: SUSCC, P.O. Box 302, Huntington Beach, CA 92648. Such national coverage inevitably results in new members for our Society.

A special thanks to those members whose names appear for the first time as proposers of new members. With Dick Bacca's newly designed membership application forms on the back cover of this issue, it should be easier than ever for each of us to recruit at least one new member. For some ideas on recruiting, see the inside back cover. In the next issue of the Trail, we'd like to see YOUR name as a proposer for a new member!

We are especially happy to report that Society member J. VINCENT NABHOLZ (R-1463, DC) has converted his membership from "regular" to "life." Vincent's been a member of our Society since 1987. As the 32nd life member of our Society. he will receive our special gold membership card, which depicts the Oregon Trail design, assigning him the new membership designation: "LM-32, DC." We thank you, VINCENT, for your support of and your faith in our Society.

* * *

* * * * * NAME THAT COMMEM! * * * * *

We ran this XCU past Homer and he "recognized" it at once. "Why, that's Wayne Gretzky holding the NHL Rule Book." He was disappointed when we told him hockey has not been honored on a U.S. commem. He felt even worse when we told him that the sport of soccer will soon be so honored. Homer asked, "Why?" We couldn't answer. (Photo courtesy of Bill Fivaz)

* * * * * A DELAWARE DISCOVERY * * * * *

by John Kraljevich, Jr. (J-0067, PA)

Just newly uncovered is a plaster-of-paris negative model of the reverse of the 1936 Delaware Tercentenary commemorative half dollar. According to its holder, it is attributed to Adam Pietz, the designer of the 1946 Iowa commemorative half dollar. Pietz served as assistant engraver of the U.S. Mint under John Sinnock from 1927 through 1946, even though Pietz was about ten years his elder.

The plaster negative was discovered in a home in Delaware and is 10 and 3/4 inches in diameter and 1 and 1/8 inches in thickness. It is a bronze metallic color on the front and sides but is white on the blank back. A photograph of the model is shown below:

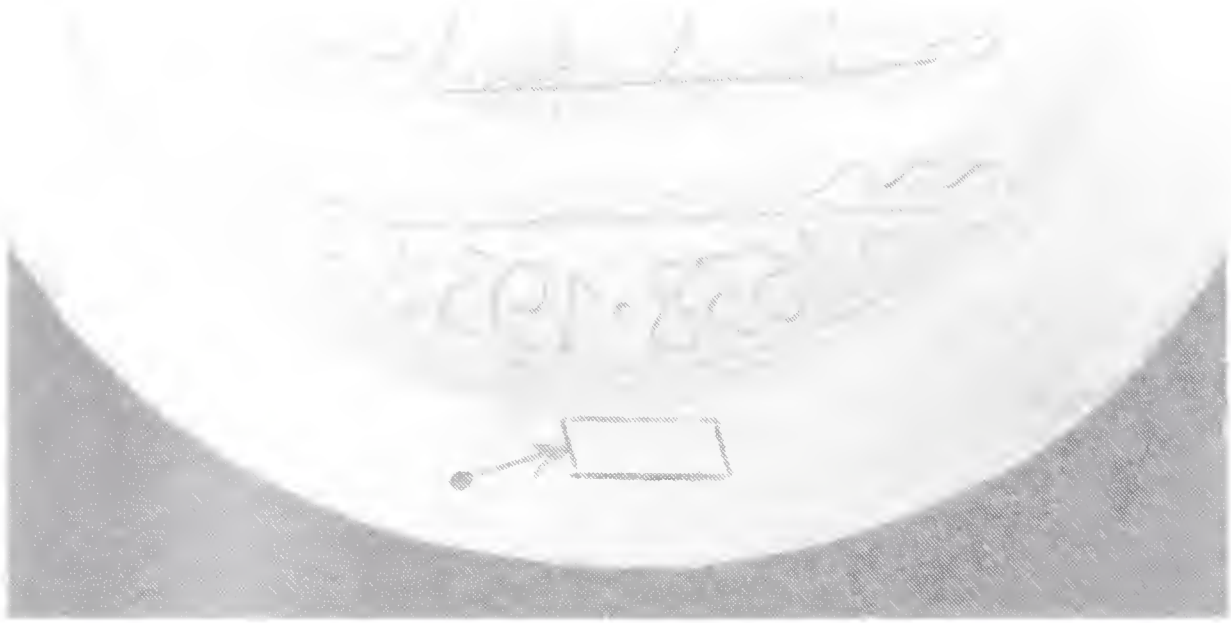
The piece was found wrapped in a corrugated cardboard cover including the following label:

Design Submitted
by U.S. Mint
engraver Adam
Pietz for the
obverse of the
1938 Delaware
Commemorative
Half Dollar.

The Delaware half dollar was designed by Carl L. Schmitz to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the landing of the Swedes in Delaware. The piece featured Old Swedes Church in Wilmington, Delaware, on the obverse and the Swedish ship, Kalmar Nyckel, on the reverse.

The Delaware half dollar was authorized on May 15, 1936. The total mintage was 25,015, but 4,022 were melted; the authorizing act was repealed August 15, 1939.

Officially the side showing the ship is the reverse. It is worth noting, however, that the label (above) as well as some of the numismatic public today refer to this side as the obverse. The official obverse (Swedes Church) shows the date 1936, the date of authorization, whereas the label (above) refers to 1938. The coins were minted during 1937, but the dates shown on the reverse are 1638 - 1938. The anniverary was officially celebrated in 1938.



[The arrow in the photograph shown above points to what appears to be an old-fashioned skeleton key; the thumb-loop is at left, the shaft points to the right, and the dentils on the key point downward from the rightmost extremity. Although this key probably will not reproduce well enough to be visible in the photo above, it is indeed visible in each of the original photos accompanying this article. The author told the Trail staff that on the plaster model the key appears in high relief.]

One odd thing about this piece is that the reverse shown is slightly different from the accepted reverse. My conjecture is this is the design Carl Schmitz submitted, but it was refined to the "accepted state" by Adam Pietz; or, as an alternative, it may have been the design submitted by Adam Pietz to the open contest and was rejected in favor of the Schmitz design. The design shown on this cast portrays LIBERTY above the ship and waves below the ship. On the accepted design there was nothing above the ship but LIBERTY, and E PLURIBUS UNUM was below the ship. The lettering is also somewhat different.

A lot of research could and should be done on this piece. This brief article is intended merely as a reintroduction of this piece to the world of numismatics and not as an in-depth research study. If anyone can provide additional information about this cast, please notify the Trail staff or inform the author at R.D. #2, Murray School Road, Pottstown, PA 19464. Additions and corrections to this article are invited.

Does anyone know the significance of the skeleton key which appears at the bottom of the model? Does such a device appear on any other plaster models?

[For those of you who own models, especially any by Carl Schmitz or Adam Pietz, please take a close look at them and help solve this mystery!]

References

Breen, Walter Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins. F.C.I Press, New York, 1988

Gibbs, William T. 1991 Coin World Guide to U.S. Coins, Prices & Value Trends. Amos Press, Sidney, Ohio, 1990

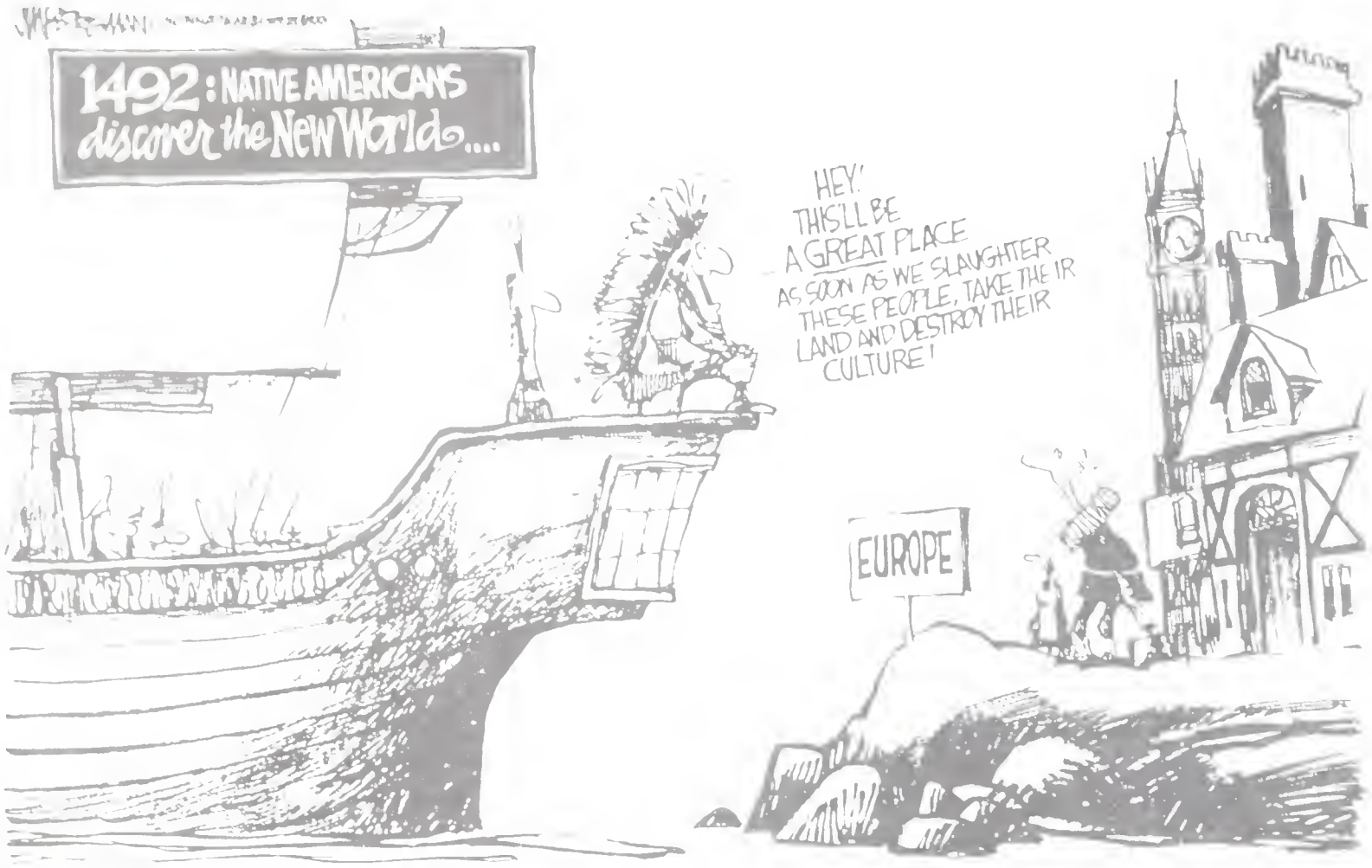
Yeoman, Richard S. A Guide Book of United States Coins. Western Publishing Co., Racine, Wisconsin, 1991

* * *

[Readers of the Trail may be as astounded as was your editor to learn that the John Kraljevich, Jr., at the time of writing the above article, was a thirteen-year-old freshman at Malvern Preparatory School near Philadelphia, PA. He is the recording secretary for the West Chester (PA) Coin Club and a member of numerous other organizations including the ANA, EAC, GENA, FUN, and CONECA. John collects early and middle date U.S. large cents by variety, fiscal paper, and colonials. John got started in coin collecting when he went to Europe and saved coins (at age seven!) and also began saving "wheat cents" from change. When he was ten, he became interested in commems with the purchase of a circulated 1893 Columbian half dollar at a country auction. He has completed the ANA correspondence course, Robert Hoge's "Coins of the Roman World," and Kenneth E. Bressett's "An Introduction to Coinage of Colonial America." Numismatically speaking, John enjoys research, writing, and cherrypicking. He also enjoys theatre, music, and all sports. Sounds to us like a very well-rounded young man!]

* * * * * NAME THAT COMMEM! * * * * *

Above is shown the 1936 Rhode Island Tercentenary half dollar. Outlined on the coin is the "rule book" Homer thought he recognized. It turns out that this coin represents a much more deadly "game" than hockey. "Peace be with you, my friend; do you have any land for sale?" (Photo courtesy of Bill Fivaz)



This delightful cartoon was spotted in a San Diego newspaper and submitted to the Trail by Society member Patrick Cerda, who thought it would tie-in nicely with whatever our journal might plan to publish regarding the 500th anniversary of the initial "voyage of discovery" by Columbus. Thank you Patrick!

Because such cartoons are copyrighted, we set out to obtain permission to reprint it and did so. It took only three phone calls, one letter, and payment of a modest fee ... and here it is! First we called the San Diego Union, then the Cincinnati Enquirer, then King Features Syndicate, the copyright owner. With the call to King Features in New York, we hit a gold mine in the form of a dynamic lady by the name of Liz Nolan, who was polite, efficient, helpful, and very informative. Liz patiently explained the procedure to be followed in submitting a formal request for obtaining the permission we sought. We followed her advice exactly and obtained permission to reprint this cartoon, which was drawn by Jim Borgman of the Cincinnati Enquirer. Thus, we can proudly say the above cartoon is "Reprinted with special permission of King Features Syndicate, Inc." For permission to reprint this cartoon, please contact: Liz Nolan, Permissions Dept., King Features Syndicate, Inc., 216 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017. Separately from the official permission letter, Liz wrote:

"The day, they say, is not lost if you learn something and I've certainly learned a great deal about commemorative coins from your letter and journal. I'm not saying I'll remember all of it, but the Queen Isabella quarter is not likely to be forgotten." ... We thank you, Liz Nolan !!!

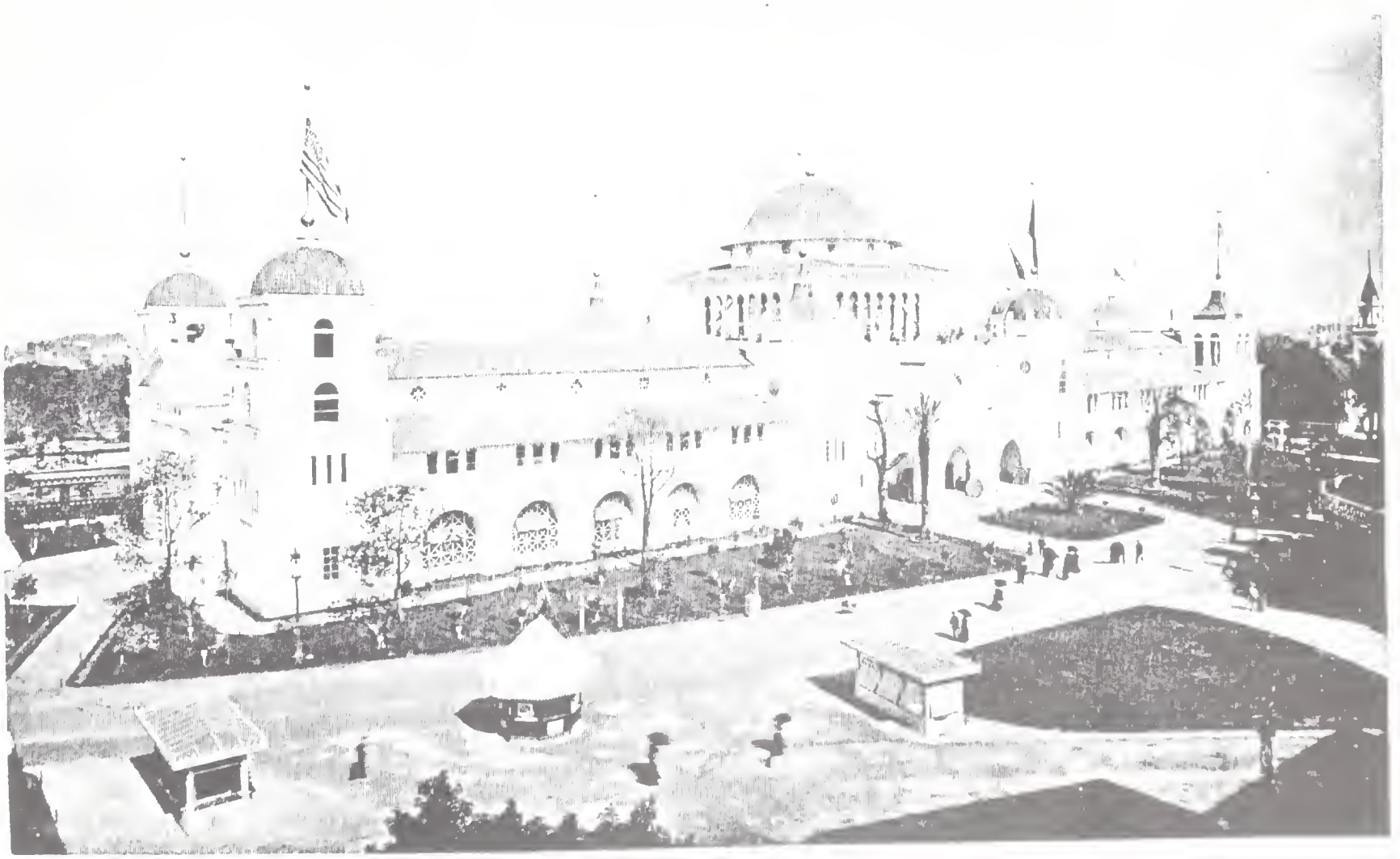
* * * * * CALIFORNIA AT THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION OF 1893 * * * * *

by Rodger W. Bridwell (R-1982, OR)

As every member of our Society knows, the first U.S. commemorative coin was the Columbian Exposition half dollar; the second was the Isabella quarter dollar. Both coins were issued in conjunction with the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. The coins were priced at one dollar each at a time when one dollar would buy a seven-course dinner, including wine, at the best Chicago restaurant.

Some of our members, however, may not appreciate the sheer size of the Exposition; a fair-sized city was built in Jackson Park along the shore of Lake Michigan. This took longer than expected, which is not surprising, and explains why the Expo opened for business in 1893 rather than 1892.

The success of the Exposition -- even in the near-panic depression of the year 1893 -- was due in part to the efforts of the Lady Managers from each state (seven from California), who did much of the actual work of planning and managing their states' buildings and exhibits. Their contribution was recognized via the Isabella quarter, as the legend on the reverse informs us. This is the only U.S. coin portraying a foreign head of state, and many collectors consider it to be the most aesthetically pleasing of all U.S. coins.



Above is shown the California State Building at the World's Columbian Expo, Chicago, 1893; showing entrance, east side, and a portion of the grounds. (Photo from the Final Report of the California World's Fair Commission, Sacramento, CA, 1894).

The time, energy, and money invested by a distant and sparsely populated state (a century ago only a little over a million people lived in California) will give some idea of the magnitude of the entire "White City," as the Expo was popularly called. The California State Building was designed in the style of a Spanish mission and measured 144 feet by 435 feet. It featured a fifty-foot-high date palm situated under the center dome (see photo), which had been planted by Junipero Serra in 1770. The exhibits displayed in the building -- for example, an orange tower 35 feet high covered with 14,000 oranges -- were transported to Chicago from California in 156 freight cars. What did all this cost? $300,000 was appropriated by the state; $203,505 by the various counties. The building itself cost $106,000, "including gas and electric light fixtures, plumbing, etc." What would the same building cost today ... ?

Happily, the most popular feature of the Expo was not the California exhibit or any other exhibit for that matter. It was either the belly dancer, Little Egypt, or the spectacle of Lillian Russell and Diamond Jim Brady in one of the midway restaurants, downing huge plates of corn-on-the-cob followed by five-pound boxes of chocolate creams.

Alas, the only survivors of the great White City are the two commemorative coins and related memorabilia such as the handsome, 240-page, profusely illustrated book entitled, Final Report of the California World's Fair Commission published in 1894 by those indefatigable Lady Managers. As for the buildings, they were demolished and removed so that Jackson Park could revert to its "original condition for park purposes by May 1, 1894."

* * * * * NAME THAT COMMEM! * * * * *

The XCU photo above depicts another "nose right," this one over a flowing moustache. Homer "spotted" a cigar and cigar smoke. Any guesses? Keep on trying!

(Photo courtesy of Bill Fivaz)

* * * * * MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT * * * * *

by the Trail Staff

We thought it would be interesting and fun to add as a regular feature in the Trail a brief human-interest article focusing on one of our Society members. Everyone seems to enjoy "letters to the editor" in whatever publication. We all are curious about the "human factors" behind the news, behind the headlines, and behind the scenes! With that in mind, we'll take a stab at this new column by by presenting our first "Member in the Spotlight":

RODGER W. BRIDWELL (R-1982, OR)

We became interested in Rodger W. Bridwell when he submitted three highly interesting articles for publication in the Trail; one entitled "California at the World's Columbian Exposition," one entitled "Isabella and Columbus," and another called "In the Wake of Columbus."

These articles really grabbed our attention! Talk about doing a double take! Here we have a Society member who not only took time to write for the Trail, he first took time to travel to Spain to learn about King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella (who were designated as "Catholic Sovereigns" by Pope Alexander VI) and then also built a sailboat -- by hand -- and sailed it single-handedly across the Atlantic Ocean "In the Wake of Columbus." Interesting? You bet! We asked Rodger to provide the Trail with some biographical background. Rodger wrote:

"Twenty years ago -- no, closer to twenty-five -- I became friendly with a man who owned a ketch. I learned sailing with him on San Francisco Bay. However, my sailing dream dated back to when I was a teen-ager and read William Henry Robinson's 10,000 Leagues Over The Sea. This was in my home town of Saint Joseph, Missouri, which is about as far from the oceans as one can get.

"When the war [WW II] came along, I was working as a chemical engineer and because of this was tapped to work on the Manhattan Project [the super-secret project for the development of the atomic bomb.] After the war, I worked for Shell Chemical in its head office, which was located across the street from the Plaza Hotel in New York City. There was a stock broker in the Plaza, and I soon discovered that I much preferred to be playing the market in his office than to be writing technical manuals in Shell's offices. So I quit and moved to Santa Barbara, California, where I started my own investment counseling firm. Later, in the San Francisco Bay area, I published investment advisory reports covering the stock, art, and coin markets. The latter came about in 1963, when I learned that you could obtain bags of silver dollars from the U.S. Government at face value -- which I did, shortly before all silver coins went to a premium and out of circulation. Thus, I started coin collecting with 20,000 silver dollars!

"By 1971 my children were grown, and my wife and I were tired of the Bay Area rat race. We sold our house and boat and moved to Spain. Why Spain? We were now in our 50s and seeking something beyond the materialistic, transitory values that we had not much questioned until then. This led us to the Spanish mystics, Ramon Llull, Teresa of Avila, and St. John of the Cross, in particular. We followed the pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela, the path of the dying St. John as he rode a mule to the Carmelite monastery in Ubeda. We also traveled like this in France and Italy.

"After several years in Spain, and other European countries, I moved to England, where in 1974 I built a 32-foot sloop and sailed alone and nonstop to Barbados, then up the Windward and Leeward Islands, thence to Puerto Rico and to the Bahamas. An account of this voyage was published by E. P. Dutton under the title: Fidelio (now out of print).

"I visited many of the places where Columbus anchored. However, I didn't follow his westward tracks beyond Puerto Rico because I lacked his internal fortitude when it came to sailing to windward.

"When I returned home, I began collecting commems. My collection is fairly valuable, nice but not expensive 'uncs.' I don't buy the philosophy that an MS-65 is worth twice the value of an MS-63, when for the difference you could put together a complete set of MS-60s."

Well, Rodger, what can we say? Three things: First, we are delighted that someone who began his coin collection with 20,000 silver dollars has discovered also the joys of collecting commems. Second, as to your final sentence quoted above, none of our readers -- or writers, for that matter -- need subscribe to any particular philosophy about collecting or investing in coins: The real wealth of our hobby lies in the learning and sharing of information; and here, we believe, the greater the diversity of philosophy, opinion, and experience, the greater the true wealth of our hobby. Third, we want to thank you for willingly agreeing to be our "guinea pig" in this initial column, "Member in the Spotlight." [Two of Rodger Bridwell's articles appear in this issue.]

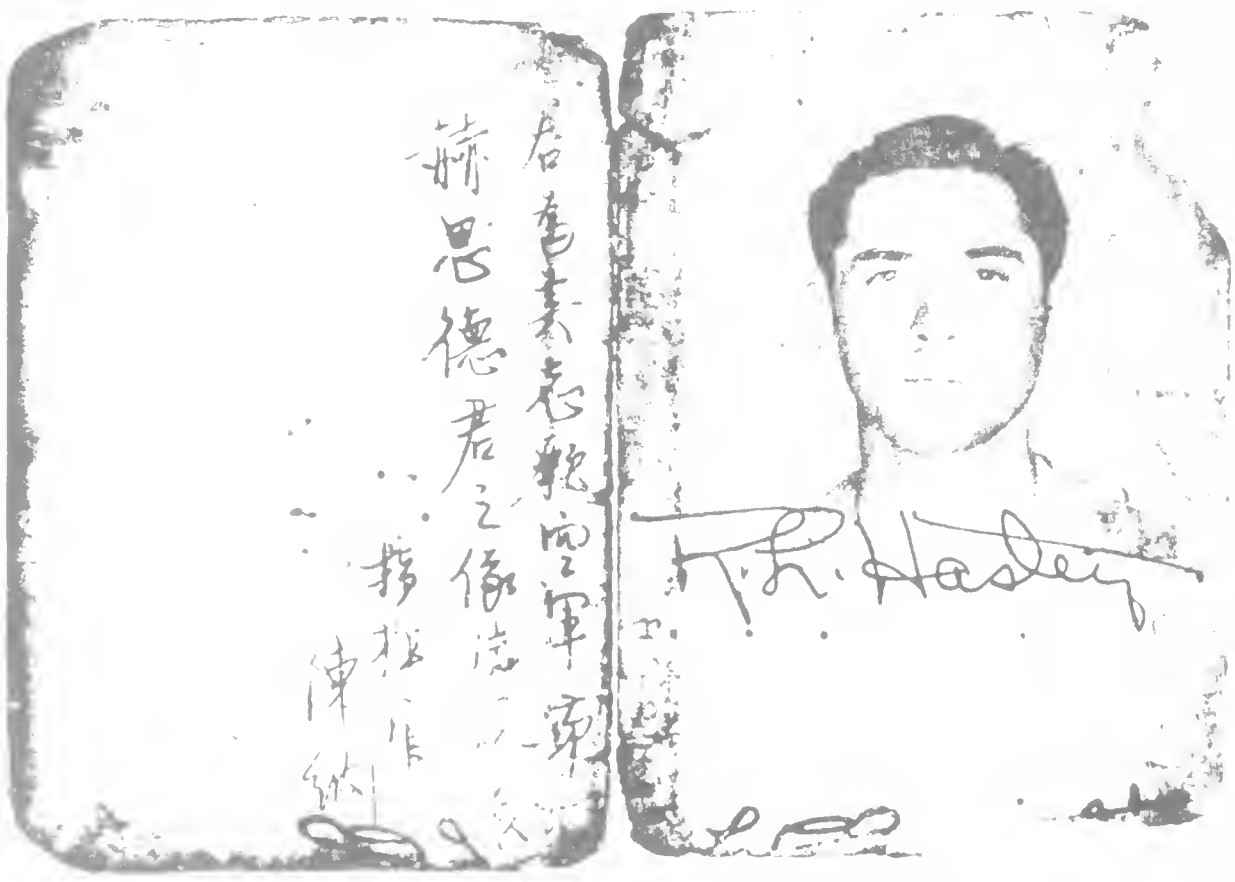
* * *

In the next issue of the Trail, the "Member in the Spotlight" column will look back fifty years, to December 8, 1941, and tell you about a handsome, daring, and dashing young American pilot who had already been at war for six months when ... but, why spoil the story? Here is a sneak preview:

CHINESE AIR FORCE
American Volunteer Group
("FLYING TIGERS")

December 8, 1941.
Toungoo, Burma - Meeting with Claire Chennault for last minute instructions prior to flight to Rangoon, Burma.

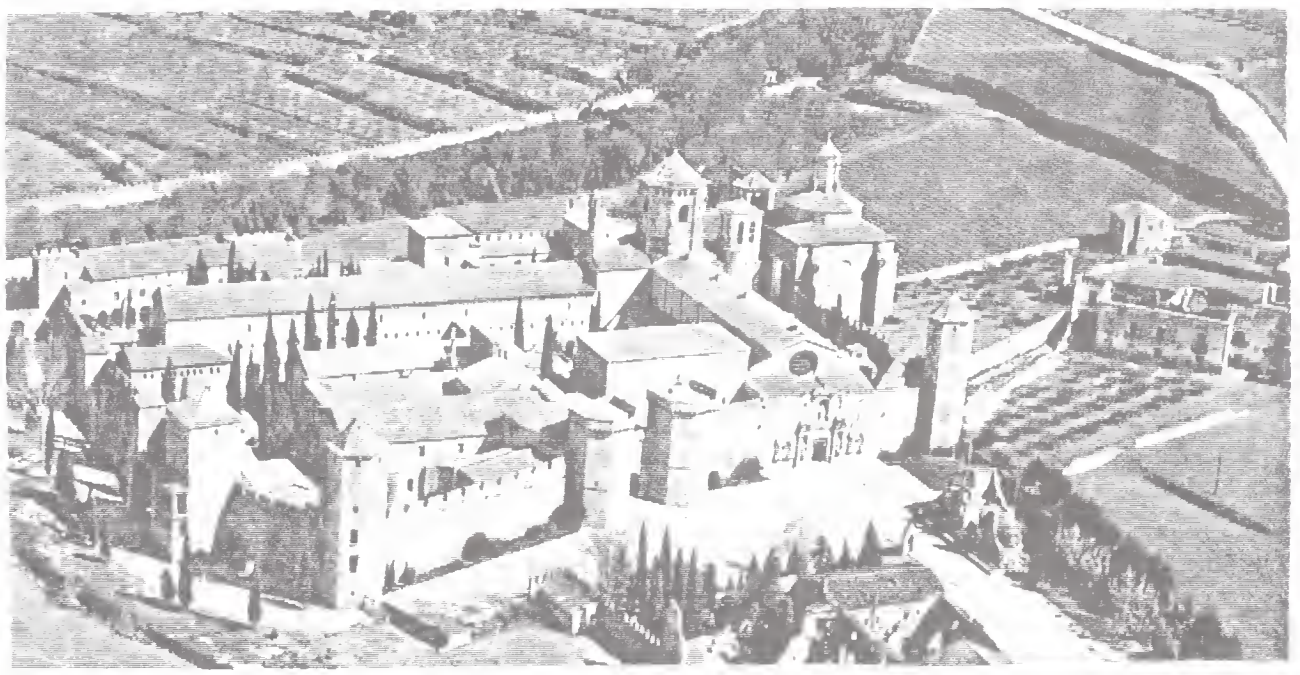
Radio operator ran up to announce that Pearl Harbor was under attack by the Japanese.



* * * * * ISABELLA AND COLUMBUS * * * * *

by Rodger W. Bridwell (R-1982, OR)

When I lived in Spain (1971-1973), I traveled from one end of the land to the other visiting castles and monasteries. I soon discovered that most of them had been lived in or fought over by the Catholic Kings, i.e., Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile ("The Catholic Sovereigns" was a title conferred upon Isabella and Ferdinand by Pope Alexander VI in 1474). One of their favorite retreats was Poblet Abbey (see photo below), a magnificent Trappist fortress/monastery about an hour's drive today from the city of Barcelona. At least I assume it was a favorite, because their several known visits were lengthy ones. When I stood in the chambers they occupied -- unchanged after 500 years -- I thought to myself, "more charming, warmer, or more aesthetically pleasing rooms could not have been designed by any modern architect!"



Shown above is an aerial view of the beautiful Poblet Abbey, near Barcelona, Spain. Note the defensive features of this fortress-like complex: the exterior perimeter wall, the fields for crops within that wall, and the castellated walls and towers of the main buildings. A favorite retreat of King Ferdinand and his wife, Queen Isabella, Poblet Abbey remains virtually unchanged after 500 years.

(Photo by Martin Sanchez, courtesy of the Spanish Tourist Bureau)

As a Columbus buff (I later sailed alone across the Atlantic in his wake), I came across an intriguing fact at Poblet that has apparently been lost to history... or at least one not mentioned in any of the English-language histories or biographies of that period. When Columbus returned to Spain in the Nina after his first voyage, he landed at Palos de la Frontera on March 15, 1493, exactly 32 weeks after setting forth from the same port. Meanwhile the Sovereigns were holding court in Barcelona at the other end of Spain, some 600 miles away.

Columbus hated to ride mules; nevertheless, he assembled a caravan of pack mules to transport his party and luggage to Barcelona. It was made up of six "Indians" from the New World, several servants, and one of his ship captains. Among his luggage were cages of colorful parrots as well as "many other things never seen or heard tell of in Spain." The caravan drew huge crowds all the way across Spain, especially in Cordoba, Seville, and Valencia.

The historian, S. E. Morrison, says that the cavalcade arrived in Barcelona "between April 15 and 20." He goes on to say, "For five or six weeks Columbus remained with the Court at Barcelona, etc., etc." Not so, according to the archivist monk I talked with at Poblet! According to this monk, early in May Isabella, Ferdinand, Columbus and his party, plus an entourage of 500 courtiers, servants, etc., arrived at Poblet and remained there until early June, when Columbus left Poblet and headed for Cadiz, where a fleet of seventeen ships was being assembled for his second voyage.

At Poblet plans for the second voyage were finalized, plans which required many meetings during which the Queen and Columbus must have become intimately acquainted. One has to wonder. Was there a relationship between Isabella and Columbus similar to that between Queen Elizabeth and Sir Walter Raleigh? It is an intriguing question, and, although a very interesting essay could be written on this comparison, it is beyond the scope of this article except to make these brief observations. Certainly the attractions were similar, and perhaps there was more than mere attraction between Elizabeth and Raleigh -- but, Elizabeth was Raleigh's senior by more than nineteen years [Raleigh was born probably in 1552, sixty years after Columbus sailed westward.] Elizabeth had dozens of admirers and/or lovers and was not so deeply religious as Isabella. Then too, Isabella and Columbus were the same age and much more alike tempermentally and physically.

What was the relationship between Isabella and Columbus? In my opinion, Isabella was willing to pawn her jewels because of a more-than-normal attraction to Columbus-the-man as contrasted to Columbus-the-explorer. However, there is no evidence that Isabella was ever unfaithful to her husband, although Ferdinand gave her ample reason; his mistresses caused scandals which she bore with her usual fortitude. Still, the marriage was a political one, and Ferdinand was a cold, reserved, even hard-hearted man in contrast to his warmhearted queen. It seems unlikely that the king and queen were ever in love or even very companionable.

Isabella and Columbus first met in 1486, when he presented to the Spanish Crown his proposal to sail westward to the Indies. This would be a shorter route to the Spice Islands and would bring untold wealth to Spain. Isabella was sympathetic but preoccupied by the endless war to expel the Moorish invaders from her country. In fact, the war continued to drag on until the last Moorish stronghold, Granada, surrendered on January 2, 1492.

During these years of seesawing war, Ferdinand drilled and then led the army into battle, while Isabella was responsible for supplying it with food, drink, and shelter. Perhaps this is why the troops adored her but only tolerated him. Then too Isabella's habit of riding among the troops in full armor -- even when she was pregnant -- must have appealed to them. When the final siege of Granada began, the 40,000 Spanish infantry and 10,000 mounted troops were housed in a city of tents near the village of Santa Fe. This sight generated an idea in the brain of the ever resourceful and imaginative queen. She immediately began to replace the tents with a city of permanent adobe houses, thereby demonstrating to the Moorish King, Boahdil, the extent of Spanish determination. Shortly thereafter Boahdil surrendered all his forces unconditionally.

Isabella then sent for Columbus and they planned the first voyage there in Santa Fe. At the end of the long war, the Royal Purse was, of course, empty, so Isabella offered to raise the cash needed to pay for the "Great Enterprise" --

some two million maravedis -- by pawning her jewels. Happily for Isabella, this sacrifice was avoided when several private investors -- all of them Jews -- put up the money. That the investors were Jews was ironical, for after financing the great venture, Spanish Jews were either expelled from their homeland or were converted to Christianity. Columbus, himself, invested 250,000 maravedis in the enterprise (presumably the money was borrowed from friends, since he was a poor man at the time).

Enter Columbus in 1486, when he and the queen were both 35 years old. According to her courtiers Isabella was incomparably beautiful; blond complexion, medium height, shapely figure, blue eyes (some said green), chestnut hair (some said red). She was well educated, could read and write Latin, and converse with philosophers, poets, and statesmen on their own level. All in all, she made a greater impact upon history and her society that any other of her sex with the possible exception of Elizabeth I of England.

Columbus was a devout Roman Catholic, as was Isabella, and this weighed heavily in his favor. For example, in his letters and diaries he repeatedly tells us that the idea to sail west to the Indies was not his, but God's. His guiding principle, his only ambition, was "to submit his will to that of God." He, like the queen, was a compassionate human being (for that era, for that time and place). In 1498, when he had become more affluent, Columbus established a trust fund administered by his son, Ferdinand, that would pay the taxes of poor people who could not afford to pay their own.

In appearance Columbus was tall and slim, with fair complexion, blue eyes, red hair, and freckles. Las Casas, who knew Columbus in Hispaniola, tells us in his Historia de las Indias, "He was affable and cheerful, most impressive in his countenance, a person of great state and authority and worthy of all reverence. He was sober and moderate in eating and drinking." He must also have radiated charisma, since Las Casas adds that he "could easily incite those who knew him to love him."

Contrast this appraisal with those who would denigrate Columbus rather than to honor him for his momentous achievement because the Spanish subsequently mistreated and exploited the native populations of Central and South America. This charge is true; that is the way all conquered peoples were treated 500 years ago. Moreover, come to think of it, did westward-migrating Americans treat the North American Indians any better? [No, they did not; Spain never advocated genocide as a national policy, which was the case in the United States during much of the 19th Century.] For the record: Isabella repeatedly sent directives to her governors in Spanish America ordering them to treat the natives with kindness and fairness. That they did not often obey the Queen's instructions in this regard was probably a result of the remoteness of the New World from Spain and of the personal greed of some of her representatives. On a note of humor, Isabella ordered that the natives should desist from daily bathing, for the practice was then "known" to be bad for the health!

Why not view Columbus and his achievement as did Samuel Eliot Morison, who points out that the most significant fruit of his voyages was a new world where new concepts of individual freedom and political democracy could develop and flourish. He accomplished his mission "with a maximum of faith, a minimum of equipment, and a superabundance of courage; gave Europe new confidence in herself, more than doubled the area of Christianity, enlarged indefinitely the scope for human thought and speculation ..." None of this would have transpired -- at

least not then -- without the vision and backing of Isabella, "Queen of Queens."

* * *

A note for the reader: During several telephone conversations your editor discussed this article with its author. Among the points we discussed was whether or not Columbus truly "accomplished his mission." As it turns out, he really did, for, although he did not reach his intended geographical destination (which was in his own words "the land of India and the great island of Cipango [Japan, to us] and the realms of the Grand Khan"), his broader mission was to find new sources of wealth for Hispaniola -- and this he surely did, for Spain became the ruler of most of Europe; and, incidentally, the newly-found wealth resulted in a century of inflation in Europe. We also discussed the current controversy as to whether Columbus should be honored or dishonored for having made his voyages of discovery. Admittedly, it would be myopic to continue the myth that "Columbus Discovered America," which had already been "discovered" by its then 37 million inhabitants, their predecessors, and by (it should be said) earlier European explorers and perhaps others as well. However, if we are to be fair, we ought to view the exploits of Columbus and his backing by Isabella in the perspective of their time and place. In that light there is no question that Columbus was a brave and daring man and that Queen Isabella was an insightful and venturesome monarch. Were they "compassionate" human beings? Yes, they were, for their time and place. Compared with the horrors imposed upon the New World by Cortez and Pizzaro and later by the English, the Dutch, and the French, the actions of Columbus and Isabella were saintly!

* * * * * NAME THAT COMMEM! * * * * *

Outlined on the Gettysburg half dollar shown above is the area displayed in the preceding XCU. The coin commemorates the Battle of Gettysburg, one of the most horrible slaughters of the War Between the States. Neither side won. No "cigar" for Homer on this one! We hope you did better. If not, try the next.

(Photo courtesy of Bill Fivaz)

Introduction to a Special Feature

The previous issue of the Trail focused upon the sale of Larry Shepherd's magnificent collection of U.S. commemorative coins by Superior Auction Galleries. The sale, which was held on the Sunday prior to the ANA Centennial Anniversary Convention in Rosemont, Illinois, is now history. Most of our Society members have by now probably read reports of that sale in one or another of the national numismatic publications and are aware of the many new record prices established.

Rather than to present to you in this issue of the Trail "just another listing" of prices realized at the Shepherd sale, which are well-documented elsewhere, we thought you would enjoy reading about the human-interest aspect of this story. Therefore, we asked Larry Shepherd to write a special and very personal article which would share with us his thoughts, his emotions, and his reflections as he sat there and watched his collection -- the result of ten years of effort -- being sold at public auction. No one of us has a right to peek into the private world of a fellow human being, though we are always curious. In the splendid article below, Larry Shepherd has graciously and honestly written about his private and deeply personal feelings and has let us all "peek" into his intellect, heart, soul, and emotions as he first endured, then relaxed, at the sale of his collection. We hope every reader will enjoy this very special article. Please sit back now, and put yourself in Larry Shepherd's shoes as the Trail revisits Rosemont, Illinois, and the "commem sale of a lifetime" ...

* * * * * A COMMEMORATIVE QUEST * * * * *

by Larry Shepherd (R-0834, OH)

"Twenty four-five. I've got twenty four-five up front. Do I hear twenty five thousand?" I've got twenty four-five ..."

"Please don't hammer it down at twenty four-five," I prayed.

"Twenty four-five. Is there any more bidding at twenty four-five? Are we all done at twenty four thousand five hundred dollars for this exquisite MS-68 Isabella quarter?"

"Please, Ira! You can't let it go at that level," I silently pleaded to Ira Goldberg, auctioneer for Superior Galleries, as he appeared poised to smash his gavel -- and with it, my hopes for a successful sale.

"Is there any more bidding?"

It was 9:07 a.m., Sunday, August 11, 1991. The auction of my 144-piece commemorative set had just commenced with Lot #1, my favorite coin in the set, a fabulously beautiful Isabella quarter. For weeks I had felt that the first two lots, the Isabella and the MS-67 Lafayette dollar that followed, would be the bellwether for the success of the auction and would set the tone for the rest of the lots that followed. If the Isabella and the Lafayette did well, I knew that the rest of the coins would also. But, if they did poorly, a negative mood would be established that could depress the price of all the lots that followed.

Privately my worst fears engulfed me, and my blood pressure rose dramatically, I suspect, during that fifteen-second sequence when the bidding on the Isabella stalled at a frighteningly low level. Numerous people had expressed interest in this wondrous coin, and I had expected it to be the most coveted piece in the whole set. I kept asking myself, "Why aren't they bidding?" Were the pessimists right? Had I been too optimistic? The doubts were flooding my mind and my heart was pounding! My face flushed, and I felt as though I was suffocating. I wished that I were not in the room, but I knew I could not leave.

Before the sale I had been asked publicly many times what I thought the Isabella would realize, and each time I responded by predicting a range of thirty thousand to forty-five thousand dollars. Actually, though, I was being conservative, posturing to keep expections low. I wanted the Isabella to sell for more than most people's estimates to create an immediate image in the bidders' minds that the sale was going to be a success and that prices were going to be strong. That would, I hoped, cause them to be more liberal when it came their turn to raise a paddle and bid on the coins they wanted. Privately my real estimate was forty thousand to sixty thousand dollars, with forty thousand being the lowest level consistent with a truly good sale. Now all that pre-sale posturing was turning into a nightmare and could have just the opposite effect of what I had hoped. Twenty four thousand five hundred dollars would be a disaster, probably carrying the whole sale down with it as the bidders' psychological expectations plummetted.

"Going once! Going twice! So..." Ira stopped in mid-word, and his gavel stopped in mid-air on its downward stroke as a bidder responded at the very last possible instant. "I've got twenty five thousand in the back of the room."

The feeling of relief at that moment is hard to describe, but I was suddenly aware of my wife's hand squeezing my knee. Seated to my left, Vickie had obviously sensed the stress that I had been experiencing and was now acknowledging the relief. I quickly glanced around, wondering whether other people had been watching me, and if they had also sensed my emotions.

Ninety seconds later Ira hammered down the Isabella at $57,500, a record price for the issue!

Lot #2, the Lafayette dollar, quickly followed. My posturing had been at sixty thousand dollars, but my hopes were for ninety or higher. Ira opened the lot at $35,000, but, unlike the Isabella, the bidding surged ahead, reaching the $105,000 hammer price in what seemed like an instant. Suddenly the mood in the room had shifted, from anxiety to electricity. People shuffled in their chairs, talked to their neighbors, and exchanged astonished glances across the floor. Those who had been shocked by the price of the Isabella were amazed by the Lafayette. The tone had been set. Expectations were heightened, and you could almost see bid ceilings being mentally raised on upcoming lots by a roomful of hopeful bidders. "This is great," I whispered to my wife. Vickie grinned, and I settled back in my chair to enjoy the rest of the sale. It was going to be a great day. All the work was paying off.

For over four months prior to that moment, I had devoted nearly every waking hour to promoting the sale. With the help of my family, we mailed over six hundred personal letters describing the coins and giving details about the auction. We mailed or distributed at coin shows more than one thousand brochures. Twice I flew from Ohio to California, spending a total of six days in Beverly

Hills at Superior Galleries assisting its staff with the catalog and promotion. Plus I spent hundreds of hours on the telephone talking with prospective bidders and with the press. As I reflected on all the time and effort devoted to building the set, it seemed appropriate that I had worked just as hard to promote and sell it, for the sale was to be the conclusion of an odyssey begun ten years earlier with the purchase of my first commemorative coin.

Coin collecting actually started for me in 1961, when at the age of eleven a friendly neighborhood grocer would allow me to go through his cash register change to look for buffalo nickels, mercury dimes, etc. Over the years I had collected just about every series except commemoratives, but, with the purchase of that first commem in 1981, I was immediately hooked. Commems epitomized everything I enjoyed about American coinage. They had art, history, variety, and low mintages. Yet they were a series I could afford to collect. That first purchase (a Lincoln) made me want to own all the issues. Commems became the only focus of my collecting interests. What had been a hobby for over twenty years suddenly became a quest, as I quickly tried to assemble a complete uncirculated 50-coin type set.

I did not set out with a goal of building the finest known set of commems; I was neither that ambitious nor that rich. But over time my love for commemoratives continued to grow, rather than to wane after the set was completed. That drove me to continue to expand and improve the set; expanding it from a type set to a full 144-piece set and upgrading individual pieces when the opportunity arose. It wasn't until about five years ago, when people started telling me that my set was probably one of the finest in existence, that I raised my goal. I figured that, if the set was good enough to be considered <u>one</u> of the best, then I should try to make it <u>the</u> best. The evolution from a typical collector type set to the finest known set was just that -- an evolution; hundreds of little steps, each designed to add to or improve the set.

Now, on a Sunday morning in Chicago, the quest was over. What had taken me ten years to build and five months to promote was sold in just two and one-half hours!

The sale set many, many record prices for individual pieces; and, with the aggregate hammer price in excess of $850,000 (approximately $940,000 including auction fees), a new standard was established for a complete 144-piece set of U.S. silver commemorative coins.

Given the extreme weakness in the coin market this year, the very low bid levels of early August, and the huge volume of coins being auctioned during the ten-day period prior to and during the ANA convention, the prices realized during this sale were more than satisfactory to me. "Astounding" is the adjective used by many others, but regardless the adjective, the sale was clearly a success.

Much of this success can be credited to people and organizations other than my family and me. Superior Galleries and its wonderful staff cooperated in every possible way and were, I am convinced, as dedicated to making the sale a success as I was. PCGS honored the set, and me personally, by putting my name on the label of each coin graded by its service. The decision to "pedigree" the set attested to its judgement of the overall quality of the collection and sent a message to the numismatic community that this was not just another collection being hyped by its owner and an auction company. Certainly, the numismatic media were helpful as well and provided outstanding coverage. Also, many individuals

across the nation went out of their way to help boost the sale. Foremost among these were Society pillars, Helen and Don Carmody, who were very helpful with their enthusiasm and positive comments. Many coin dealers helped by spreading the word and distributing brochures. Needless to say, the Trail staff worked overtime to ensure that our Society members were fully informed about the "upcoming sale of a lifetime," which I very much appreciated.

Nonetheless, the main reason the sale was successful was simply the superb quality and eye appeal of the coins. Lacking those, all efforts would have been fruitless, for this was not a market in which average-quality coins or even above-average coins would generate strong demand and premium prices. But one of the points I wanted to make with my auction, and succeeded in doing, I believe, was that, if you do your homework, take your time, and concentrate more on finding the right coins than on finding the cheapest coins, then there will always be a strong demand for what you own.

I have always operated on the principle that, while you can pay too much for the right coin, you will always pay too much for the wrong coin. As a coin dealer, I have observed that most retail buyers seem to focus too much on price and not enough on getting the right coin. It has been my experience that I have rarely ever made money on bargains, unless the whole market rose sharply. On the other hand, my greatest profits have almost always been earned on the superb coins that I "paid too much for."

People who rank price as their No. 1 priority and focus upon buying cheap coins stand a much higher chance of losing money in the long term than the buyer whose priority is finding the right coin and who is willing to buy it at a premium price, I believe. Obviously, there are upper limits on the amount of premium that is reasonable; but, if you are not paying some premium, it is probably not the right coin.

The auction would prove to be a severe test of my philosophy and the strategy I had followed. Many people, I knew, assumed that this auction would prove once and for all that I had been foolish, always looking for the best coin and paying strong prices in the process. In the world of sight-unseen trading, paying premium prices for premium coins has come under increasing attack in recent years. Because most of my coins had been acquired in the strong markets of 1986-1989 and as I would be selling in the weakest market in a decade, a huge loss seemed certain -- at least in the view of some people. Several dealer friends, primarily those who focus on sight-unseen trading, expressed just these sentiments to me in the days and weeks prior to the sale. Some even offered advance condolences or sympathy for the impending "killing" I was about to undergo.

I tried to "stay cool" and display an air of confidence, but I'll admit that I was nervous and more than "mildly worried" as the date for the auction approached. Fortunately, the negative sentiments I was hearing were balanced by the enthusiastic comments and positive projections of many of the collectors who contacted me as well as by some of the more optimistic dealers. Most importantly, I never lost faith in my belief that collectors would pay strong prices in any market for superb, premium-quality coins. Thus, it seemed to me, the key to having a successful auction was in getting collectors excited and getting them to attend. They did! Many of those who could not attend had someone there representing them.

Dealers bid just as strongly as did the collectors. There was no dominant

buyer, and the coins were disbursed widely. Prices were strong; I made a profit. The pre-auction pessimists appeared shocked and bewildered by their miscalculations. Many tried to hedge or rationalize afterward, but, to me, the explanation was simple. Buyers sent a strong signal that, despite their rejection of sight-unseen trading and their lack of interest in overgraded, unappealing coins that seem to predominate in the showcases of many dealers, the sight-seen market for superb quality, eye-appealing coins was still strong.

In the few weeks between the auction and the time this is being written, I have been asked often how I feel now that my collection is actually gone. The answer is that my emotions are mixed but mostly positive.

Sure, I miss the coins and I miss the pride of ownership and the attention that the coins brought me. I miss the thrill of going to the vault and looking at each of the coins individually -- a thrill which never went away or diminished regardless of how many times I repeated the process. But, like a person who has climbed a mountain and then come back down, there is a continuing sense of accomplishment at having reached the summit. Like the climber, I have pictures and memories to sustain the experience. I'm very pleased to share the pleasure I derived from owning the coins with the dozens of new owners who now treasure the coins as much as I did. I get a wonderful feeling when a collector proudly carries one of those coins to a show, just to show me what he bought at the auction and to share his delight with his friends and the bourse dealers.

Years from now I will be at some coin show, and I'll look into a dealer's case and spot a coin with the "Shepherd" pedigree on the label. I'll inquire about the coin, and he'll describe it as having come from an amazing collection assembled many years ago by some guy named Shepherd. He'll tell me how the collection was sold at auction "back in 1991" and generated a lot of excitement along with what were then record prices. I'll listen with a warm feeling in my heart and walk away with a smile on my face and a wistful look in my eye.

Won't that be fun?

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* * * * * SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENT * * * * *

Our "club year" runs from August to August, and dues were due in August! So, if you haven't yet paid your dues for our current club year, drag out "the old checkbook" right now -- or risk missing the next issue of the Trail. Make the check payable to "SUSCC" in the amount of $20. Send it to:

Helen L. Carmody
S U S C C
P.O. Box 302
Huntington Beach, CA 92648-0302

No matter what time of year a person may join our Society, that individual is entitled to receive the next four issues of the Trail. Yes, our dues are prorated, and we do give our members a grace period. However, if you have received one or more copies of the Trail without having kept your dues current, you have been "hitch hiking" on the pocketbooks of your fellow members, and we don't need to discuss the morality of that -- I hope! [RJM]

* * * * * NAME THAT COMMEM! * * * * *

Above is shown one of the new XCU photos Bill Fivaz sent us, and he was absolutely correct in suggesting that this new set will "drive our members up the wall." This is a much tougher set than the previous one. If you can guess this one, you either know your "coins" or know your "coin." Homer didn't have a clue, so we'll give you one: It's a "nose left." Good luck!

(Photo courtesy of Bill Fivaz)

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* * * * * COMMEMORATIVES FEATURED AT "SUPERCOURSE" * * * * *

During the 1991 ANA Summer Seminar

by Donald Scarinci (R-1934, NJ)

The ANA Summer Seminar, held July 7-13 in Colorado Springs, again offered the course entitled, "The SuperCourse: Commemoratives, Gold and Dollars," which featured an in-depth study of commemorative coinage.

Approximately 14 numismatists ranging in age from 15 to 65 spent a week looking at the inventory of Blanchard & Co. under the supervision of its chief numismatist, Michael Fuljenz. Fuljenz brought a large quantity of certified commemorative coins along with their original holders. A Colorado collector's set, removed from the original holders last year, provided insight into original toning of various issues.

Fuljenz told the students that "the lab is more important than the lecture." He said that the only way truly to learn how to grade coins and to appreciate

original toning and understand the differences between the various dates and mint marks is to inspect coins in all grades.

Advocacy of hands-on experience is not a new concept for commem enthusiasts. James S. Iacovo, in his forward to Ray Mercer's A Buyer's Guide to the Grading and Minting Characteristics of United States Commemorative Coins, Volume One, says, "Use this guide to compare as many specimens as you can. For example, when you attend coin shows in search of an 'MS65' Albany look at all Albanys, regardless of their mint state levels, study them, and compare their attributes. This is the best way to learn. Do not limit yourself to one particular grade of coin because you may discover that one's 'MS63' may have more eye appeal than another's 'MS65'!"

In his text Ray Mercer emphasized the importance of examining and comparing many coins of the same date and mint mark to understand their striking characteristics, luster, and toning.

Mercer, Iacovo, and Fuljenz were prophets to the class at the ANA seminar. No one left Colorado Springs without a greater appreciation of the value of looking at the coins themselves rather than just reading about them.

Fuljenz illustrated the effects of original toning on coins by allowing numismatists to compare original commemorative holders to the coins themselves. For this purpose a Colorado collection was displayed in the class along with the original holders from which they were removed last year.

The class compared the bull's-eye toning of high-grade Columbia commems with the original Columbia holders. Also circulating in the class were Pan-Pac gold and silver coins with the original deep blue colored box. Fuljenz explained how chemical reactions with the holder create the dark toning that the Pan-Pac halves often have.

Also presented for inspection was an original pine box used for presentation of the Lexington. The box was a small wooden container with a round coin-holder with an opening larger than the diameter of a half dollar. The pine opening reacted chemically with the metal to give the Lexington an unpleasant green color with spotting. It's impossible to understand why Lexingtons often come with so little eye appeal until you see the box and understand that this was the culprit.

As to the value of original holders, Fuljenz explained that the memorabilia that goes with commemorative coins, such as the holders, jewelry, or original things that were issued along with the coins, are sometimes very valuable. [The author reported specific prices (as discussed at the seminar) for various commen holders. However, because those prices were not reports of actual transactions, they are omitted here as a matter of Society policy.] Numbered holders, as opposed to plain holders, are comparatively more valuable. Original boxes for Pan-Pac gold and silver, as well as the copper frames, can be extremely valuable and may be worth thousands of dollars. [Counterfeit memorabilia is known to exist.]

After showing a run of coins with nice original toning, Fuljenz turned his attention to teaching the class how to identify coins that had been dipped and coins that were artificially toned. Fuljenz explained that artificial toning eats into the coin and can change overnight or by the end of the week. Artificial toning is applied to a coin's surface and can be detected with experience.

Fuljenz explained the current chemicals used to tone coins artificially and described in detail their effects on various issues.

Fuljenz brought out a run of coins that had been dipped to various degrees. When you see the dipped coin side by side its original counterpart, you cannot help but discern the difference. A Robinson was dipped so much that it looked like the fender of an automobile. Suprisingly, these dipped coins were all certified by the grading services. So much for the assurance that "dipped out" coins are never in holders!

In order to demonstrate the difference between prooflike and ordinary mint-state coins and to show the variation permitted within a particular grade, Fuljenz brought out a hoard of over a dozen Columbian halves. There was general astonishment that so many of these coins could be in one dealer's inventory. Fuljenz explained that Blanchard & Co. had just concluded a large Columbian deal before he arrived in Colorado. Still it makes one skeptical about the relationship between the rarity and the price of Columbians when one dealer can have so many nice specimens.

The class compared the proof likes to the mint-state coins and contrasted toned Columbians to untoned Columbians. By the end of the session most numismatists in the class could identify a lightly-dipped Columbian and they could tell the difference between proof like and mint-state coins. Just about everyone walked out with an appreciation for "low end" MS-65 and "high end" MS-65 coins. Fuljenz strenuously asserted that, like fine wine and caviar, original coins can be appreciated only by comparison and by tasting many examples. Even those who disliked the Columbian's design were savoring the aroma of some remarkable specimens in Blanchard & Co.'s inventory.

Fuljenz asserted that most proof like commems should not command more than a 30 percent premium over mint-state examples. He cautioned collectors that the purchase of proof like commems at a premium should only be made after careful examination of the coins and upon satisfaction that the coin is nice. Columbians, of course, may not be the best long-term value in the commemorative series at the moment, for they are being purchased and sold as mementos for 1992. The class was not left without an appreciation for the history of coins. Fuljenz was, after all, a teacher before he was a coin dealer. He took the opportunity to use the history of commemorative coins to explain why some issues are more frequently found in lower grades than others. History and grade have more in common than most collectors suspect. How coins were removed from the holders and how they were distributed play an important role in what condition coins can be found on the market today.

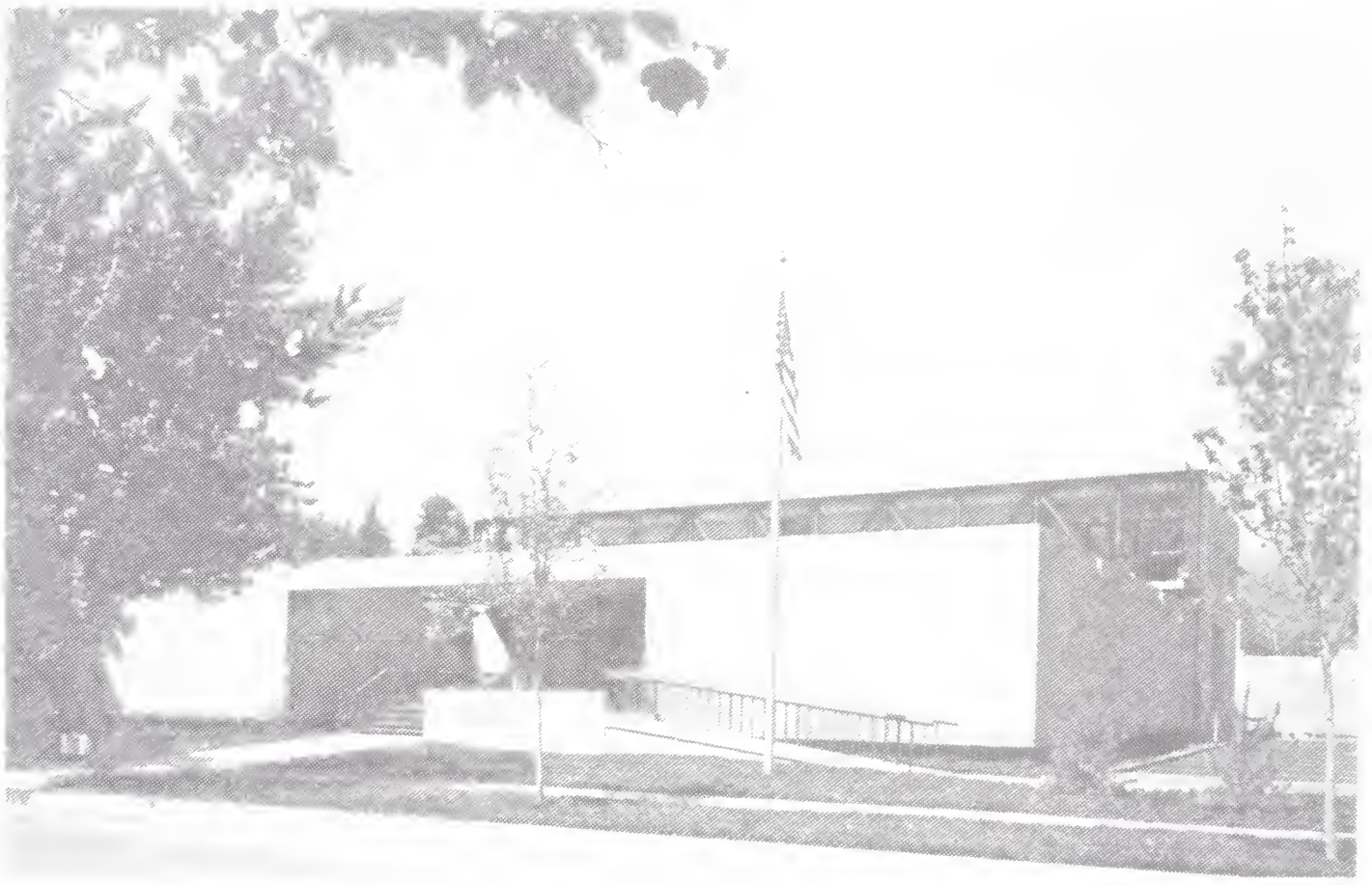
On the subject of distribution methods, Fuljenz used original holders to demonstrate how coins can be damaged by removing them from the holders, causing slide marks. Commemoratives of the 1930s and later were sold to collectors who cared for the coins more than earlier coins which were sold in greater quantities to the general public as souvenirs. Some of the original holders, like the Lexington pine box, were loose fitting allowing the coin to move around and become damaged. Other holders were made with sliding plastic windows, resulting in slide marks by careless removal and reinsertion into the holder.

Much of the class focused on an examination of the coins. An almost complete run of Texas commems circulated as an example to the class to demonstrate luster and striking characteristices of this series. The 1936-D Texas was used

as the example of the coin with the best luster. This was compared to the subdued luster of the 1938-S and P. Coins of different dates and different luster in the Texas series were compared and used as the example that not all commems of a given type are alike.

As a grading study, a set of 1938 Texas coins was compared to sets of other dates. Grading by PCGS and NGC is certainly more liberal on the 1938 coins. Like the Rhode Island 1936-S, the 1938 Texas coins, the 1939 Arkansas coins, and late-date Boones and Oregons rarely come gem and seldom have good luster.

While the class also looked at dollars and gold, the "SuperCourse" consisted of quite a few collectors who were interested in commemorative coinage. This may have been a result of the cancellation of the ANA Summer Seminar which had been planned for Philadelphia and which was to have included a course on commems taught by Anthony Swiatek. Insufficient registration was cited as the reason the Philadelphia seminar was cancelled.



Above is a postcard showing ANA Headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado. (Photograph by Hugh Koester; postcard by McGrew Color Graphics of Kansas City, Missouri).

The seminar in Colorado Springs was attended by fewer than 100 students this year. This number was down dramatically from the last several years. Perhaps the ANA found it was competing against itself with its Centennial Convention in Chicago, or perhaps collectors are not aware of the opportunities and enjoyment that await them by spending a week in Colorado Springs with fellow collectors and authors.

Along with Mike Fuljenz, professional graders such as Don Bonser, J. P. Martin, Mary Sauvain, and Bill Fivaz were available all week to look at coins and to make comments. The ANA grading seminar used an armored truck to transport its inventory worth millions in order that students could learn to grade and compare coins of different series.

The ANA organized an evening lecture series with topics such as: "Colonial Currency Engravings," by Richard Doty, numismatic curator of the Smithsonian Institution; "Investing in Numismatics: Tips from an Insider," by Mike Fuljenz; "Error Coins," by Don Bonser; "The Minting Process," by J. T. Stanton; "Varying S Mint Marks," by Mary Sauvain; and a slide presentation "Name that Coin," by Bill Fivaz. Readers of the Trail are quite familiar with Bill's similar series, "Name that Commem," which is an ongoing part of our journal.

The ANA Summer Seminar offers opportunities for hobbyists and serious numismatists to study coins and to speak informally with authors and fellow hobbyists and collectors in virtually any field of interest. The ANA provides a beautiful setting in Colorado Springs with a Rocky Mountain backdrop, room and board, the evening presentation series, and a well-organized classroom setting laboratory in which to study coins intensively. The week is a must for anyone who is even casually interested in coins of any series. The author recommends reserving the second week of July, 1992, for anyone who missed the experience this year.

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* * * * * SOCIETY NEWS * * * * *

Prior to the American Numismatic Association's Centennial Convention last August, Society members assumed varied offices in local and state organizations. RICK HOWSLEY (R-1708, HI) joined the Board of Directors of the Big Island Coin Club after serving as its president. EVERETT HULL (R-0186, TX) will head the 1992 Texas Numismatic Association's convention planned for Fort Worth next April. MARION F. KENDRICK (R-1810, HI) and CHARLES MATSUDA (R-0420, HI) were elected vice president and treasurer, respectively, of the Honolulu Coin Club. PAUL L. MILLER (R-1693, OK) became president of the Oklahoma Numismatic Association.

In Rosemont, Illinois, the site of The World's Fair of Money (as the ANA's convention was known), the honors and recognition accorded Society members grew steadily as each day passed during the week-long celebration. DAVID L. GANZ (R-1688, NY) was installed as the new ANA vice president. ANTHONY SWIATEK (R-0004, NY) took his seat as a new member of the ANA Board of Governors. KAY EDGERTON LENKER (R-0870, CA) was announced as first runner-up in the Board race (having missed election by just 135 votes!) and will assume office should one of the governors be unable to fulfill his term. Kay was also named new chairman of the 1891 Club.

JAMES L. HALPERIN (R-1125, TX) completed his term as an ANA Governor, and all of us should be extremely pleased with the outstanding effort and dedicated service he provided while in office. During his term Jim donated many hundreds of copies of his book, NCI Grading Guide, to coin clubs throughout the nation, including our Society. Some clubs passed these books out to members in attendance at their meetings; some mailed them to their members for the cost of postage and handling; and others used the books as door prizes or as awards for winning exhibitors at their meetings and shows. Although Jim's generosity in donating countless cartons of these books to coin clubs (and literally "paying the freight") has not been heralded in the numismatic media, it is nonetheless very widely recognized and deeply appreciated. THANK YOU JIM HALPERIN!

WALTER H. BREEN (R-1767, CA) received the first-place Heath Literary Award for his article, "The S.S. Central America: Tragedy and Treasure." The silver medal and the $250 stipend could not have gone to a more deserving author!

ELIZABETH JONES (R-0500, PA) received the Government Service Award in recognition of her contributions while chief sculptor-engraver of the United States Mint as a "talented, outstanding, and ground-breaking artist whose work in numismatics stretches back more than thirty years."

Q. DAVID BOWERS (R-0548, NH) received the ANA's highest honor, the Farran Zerbe Memorial Award for Distinguished Service ... for "numismatic credentials" that "no one can challenge." Dave also was presented with a special award from the Professional Numismatists Guild (PNG) for his work on a new booklet entitled The Pleasures of Coin Collecting.

HELEN L. CARMODY (R-0007, CA), RALPH C. LANGHAM (R-0049, CT), and CHARLES J. RICARD (R-0080, IL) were each bestowed the ANA Medal of Merit. Helen was recognized for her role as ANA regional coordinator for California and Hawaii (ANA Region 8) and for her efforts on behalf of the Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins. Ralph was honored for having devised the current ANA Representative Program and for serving as its national coordinator. Charlie was aclaimed for a variety of positions he has held in serving the ANA, including chairman of the 1891 Club and a member of the ANA centennial celebration committee.

Winners of the Glenn Smedley Memorial Award for outstanding service to the ANA or the numismatic hobby were BILL FIVAZ (LM-25, GA) and JAMES L. HALPERIN.

RICHARD J. SCHWARY (R-1273, CA), Professional Numismatists Guild treasurer, and FRED C. WEINBERG (R-1205, CA), secretary, were installed as members of the new PNG Board of Directors.

J. T. STANTON (R-0935, GA) was presented an appreciation award by CONECA (the Combined Organizations of Numismatic Error Collectors of America) and also received the Kenny Knapp Award for signing the most new members (44) during the year.

When the ANA exhibit awards were handed out, Society members' names were included. ALBERT K. HALL (R-1879, CA) garnered a first-place award in the Latin American category for "Uncirculated 1982-1991 Silver Libertad Onzas of Mexico." Al won another first-place award, under the category of "Primitive, Odd and Curious Money," for his exhibit of "Some Silver Odd and Curious of Siam." JOHN J. KRALJEVICH, JR. (J-0067, PA) picked up the second-place award in the Gordon Z. Greene Memorial Award category of United States Coins. DAVID W. LANGE (R-1779, CA) won third place in the U.S. Coins category with his exhibit, "U.S. Coinage for the Philippines." Q. DAVID BOWERS would no doubt have won an award for his 16-case display, had he not entered it in the non-competitive category; still, that magnificent display will not go unforgotten by any who saw it! Accordingly, the Trail staff hereby bestows on David our silent, "We Saw It and We Loved It Award." A hearty "Well Done!" to each of you!

At the Numismatic Literary Guild's "bash," Q. DAVID BOWERS' new book, The American Numismatic Association Centennial History, Volumes I and II, was named "Book of the Year." In the "Nonprofit or Club Numismatic Magazines" category, WALTER H. BREEN'S article (mentioned above) on the S.S. Central America, which appeared in The Numismatist, was judged Best Article. In the same category, Q. DAVID BOWERS' "Coins and Collectors," which also appeared in The Numismatist, won honors as Best Column. NLG awards for numismatic newspapers followed. The best article in the Paper Money category was "Artist Revives Art of Drawing Bank Notes," by ROBERT R. VAN RYZIN (R-1973, WI), in the February issue of Bank Note

Reporter. BETH DEISHER (R-2027, OH) editor of Coin World, won Best Column honors for her "Opinion" column and also accecpted the Best Issue award for Coin World, August 22, 1990. The Lee Martin Founders' Award went to MAURICE ROSEN (R-0450, NY) for his newsletter, The Rosen Numismatic Advisory. Both Rare Coin Review, published by Bowers & Merena Galleries, Inc., and Legacy magazine, published by Heritage Capital Corp., JAMES L. HALPERIN and STEVE IVY (R-1126, TX), publishers, received Extraordinary Effort awards. WILLIAM J. ATKINSON (R-1877, IL), won the award for Best NLG Newsletter Article with his feature, "Collector Interview." For the second time in three years, ROBERT R. VAN RYZIN received the award for Best Overall Portfolio.

We are "bustin' our buttons" with pride that members of our Society have received such well-deserved tributes and acknowledgements for their contributions to numismatics. Our most sincere congratulations to all!

* * * * * NAME THAT COMMEM! * * * * *

Above is shown the Daniel Boone Centennial half dollar, struck to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of this famous frontiersman. This one was way over Homer's head, but we hope you got it right! This was a toughie from the new set of photos Bill sent us.

(Photo courtesy of Bill Fivaz)

* * *

The Daniel Boone Centennial Half Dollar

We are happy, once again, to present another installment from the classic work, A Buyer's Guide to the Grading & Minting Characteristics of United States Commemorative Coins, Volume One, by our Society's immediate past president and a former editor of the Trail, Ray Mercer. We thank you again, Ray!

Boone

(1934 - 1938)

Introduction

As opposed to the Arkansas mini-series, the Boone has a little bit more going for it in respect to basic eye appeal and design! It's an interesting series in the fact that it possesses a fairly wide variety of minting characteristics and rarities - both in condition census and mintage. To avoid unnecessary repetition, before we get into a date by date analysis, let's take a general look at the basic Boone type...

Luster (Type)

The Boone mini-series offers us a wide variety of luster - brilliant/frosty, satin, proof-like, and even chrome-like! Of course, regardless of what "type" of luster, the trick is to acquire specimens displaying their original surfaces. To merely study a few examples of the more common 1935 and 1936 issues is not enough! Each date displays its own distinct "look" and every date/mint must be consider its own separate entity! Constant comparison is your best tool to gaining a good understanding of this series. Look at as many pieces as you can, study their characteristics, and retain your knowledge - it's the only sure path to understanding these coins on your own!

Unfortunately, after some educated field work, you will quickly discover that dipping has taken its toll on the originality of many of the specimens being offered on today's marketplace. With this in mind, always make a special effort to insure that your coins display their original surfaces and highlights!

Strike (Type)

As a whole, weakness of strike is not a term synonymous to the Boone series. Personally, I have encountered few examples where strike has forced me to downgrade the coin. Of course, weakness of strike does exist and it maybe found in varying degrees by inspecting the Indian's head and clasped hands. As a rule, you will discover the branch mints to display less detail than their Philadelphia counterparts - especially on the "chrome-like" and "prooflike" examples. Therefore, it is wise that you learn what constitutes a "good strike" for each particular date and mint mark before making any hasty judgements.

Marks (Type)

The key focal point is the bust of Boone prominently portrayed on the obverse - with particular emphasis on his cheek and jaw. Although all areas of the coin should always be considered (along with the Indian's body on the reverse), Boone's bust is the primary and most important focal point of the coin. A nasty track or bag mark on Boone's cheekbone can do much to detract from the overall eye appeal of a specimen.

and occasionally slide marks tend to cross Boone's cheekbone and jawbone - greatly disturbing the eye appeal of the coin! Slide marks are unfortunately a common problem with this issue, so carefully check each specimen for this problem - regardless of its date or mint. Slide marks aren't fussy - they attack both common and rare coins alike!

Initial wear every Boone you are destined to encounter will display some degree of planchet abrasion on Daniel's cheekbone and to a lesser extent, his jaw - from light to moderate. Study a number of examples and learn what this minting characteristic looks like! If you don't, you are going to waste your time rejecting pieces because they display what you erroneously believe to be some form of "friction" or "rub." It is also wise to remember that all date Boones, especially the branch mints, will frequently display die polishing marks. This occasionally is heavy enough to lend a specimen a "chrome-like" look, and should not be confused with cleaning. Die polishing marks are raised lines on the coin.

Toning (Type)

There really isn't much I can state in this department as the Boone offers us both a wide variety of surfaces and possible methods of storage. Therefore, it is important we study the "type" of luster common to each date mint and learn the nature of their surfaces. The toning can run the entire spectrum of subdued to flashy as can the different hues of its color!

Summary (Type)

As a type, the Boone offers the educated buyer a wide variety of luster to choose from - satin, frosty, brilliant, prooflike, or chrome-like. Whatever you desire, just make sure the coin's surfaces are ORIGINAL as many dipped-out and cleaned examples exist. Guard against acquiring a specimen with detracting marks by inspecting the critical focal point of Boone's cheek and jaw. As a type, sharply struck specimens can be readily found. The "type" coins for this issue are usually selected from the 1935PDS, 1935/34-P, 1936PDS, and 1937-P issues. As always, EYE APPEAL and ORIGINALITY are the keys. Now let's examine each date...

1934-P (10,007)

LUSTER

The 1934-P is known for its granular surfaces and this results in most specimens exhibiting either a satin or a slightly dull "frost" effect. However, some examples, due to die polishing, display a flashy, intense, "sheen", but these coins tend to lack any noteworthy contrast between their devices and fields. Regardless of the degree of luster or lack of contrast, make sure your coin possesses good, natural highlights and surfaces for the issue! Although far from "impossible," locating 1934-P Boone's with strong highlights is not an easy task. This date has been greatly abused by dipping/cleaning and locating a totally original example is a lucky find to say the least! It appears many numismatists of the past (not to mention the present!) did not understand the granular nature of this coin and numismatically butchered a large number of pieces.

STRIKE

In general, weakness of strike is not a major obstacle related to the 1934-P Boone. The only real exception to this generality is on some of the examples sporting the previously mentioned, intense "sheen". In this case, a weakness can usually be found on the Indian, but seldom enough to detract from the overall look of the coin.

MARKS

It would be unfair of me to state that the 1934-P is prone to detracting marks more so than the other Boone dates, but it would also be foolish of me to overlook the current status of today's marketplace. Because of its relatively low mintage, the 1934-P Boone you are apt to encounter on today's bourse floor will probably display a nasty whack or two on Boone's cheekbone, so take care in your selection process!

TONING

Because of enthusiastic dipping and cleaning, specimens sporting original toning are quite scarce. As a rule, natural toning on the 1934-P is not customarily "flashy" and this has probably encouraged more than one coin's visit to the dip jar! Unfortunately, in numismatics, what we don't understand - we have the bad habit of destroying! The 1934-P's granular surfaces naturally prohibits a "flashy" projection of its luster. This encourages the toning to be less than vibrant and seldom does it take on a smooth flow or progression. The typical example displays a grayish cast to a rather bland russet. In fact, I have seen my share of the intense "sheen" examples that could be only described as "grey" in color. They offer an almost "matte proof" effect in regards to their hue and the luster's reflection.

SUMMARY

The 1934-P is an overlooked and generally misunderstood coin. As a date, it's as scarce as its mintage implies - especially in respect to pieces displaying total originality. Look for examples exhibiting good luster (for its "type"), a good strike, and no detracting marks. You will find it difficult to obtain MS-63+ and better examples which display strong eye appeal and originality on today's marketplace.

1935-P (10,010), 1935-D (5,005), 1935-S (5,005)

LUSTER

The luster indigenous to these three mints are of a brilliant/frosty nature. However, you will discover that not all examples are automatically up to par in respect to highlights and contrast, so it is always wise to compare a good number of specimens BEFORE you make a financial decision. Seek bold highlights and good contrast by slowly tipping & rotating each mint underneath a direct light. Be forewarned, many of these coins have been dipped-out!

STRIKE

Weakness of strike is not a major problem with these coins, but it is wise to remember that the branch mints will frequently display a little less detail than their P-mint cousins.

MARKS

Individually, neither one of the three mints are more prone to track or bag marks than the others. However, it is not easy to find an original "set" where at least one of the coins must be considered a half a grade less due to a pop or two on the obverse focal point.

TONING

Because of the frosty/brilliant nature of their surfaces, the 1935 mints can be found with vibrant and sometimes, quite impressive toning. Of course, due to diversity of storage, it is impossible for yours truly to provide a pinpoint "look", but I can offer the advice of comparison as a good asset to any buyer.

SUMMARY

As far as selecting a "type" coin from this date, I strongly suggest your specimen displays good, highlighted luster, a strong strike, and no detracting marks - along with original surfaces and plenty of eye appeal. As a "single", take special care as since the advent of "grading certificate mania" (i.e. "let's fish for the big buck and see what they call this one!"), many original sets have been broken up and what is left in the showcases as "singles" leaves much to be desired in the marks department.

This has encouraged a notable shortage of original sets - especially in respect to all three mints displaying a consistent grade level. However, if your primary desire is to acquire three coins with matching toning not all three coins grading MS-64, MS-65, or whatever), your job will not be as monumental as they are still available on today's marketplace. The only catch is that one or two of the coins will probably grade MS-60 - here again - because of detracting marks. If you want all three coins to grade MS-64 or better, you probably should adjust your mind to the fact that you are going to have to buy each coin piece by piece.

LUSTER

Of all the Buffalo FDS sets, not only is the 1935/sm.34 the rarest in regards to its mintage, but probably the most enthusiastic in respect to luster. The P-mint is customarily your brilliant/frosty coin and projects its luster in a similar manner to the 1935-P. It typically displays good highlights and contrast. However, the D & S branch mints are a whole different story!

The 1935/34 D is a deeply satin finish coin - highly granular to the point of providing an almost "matte" effect. By inspecting both the obverse and reverse, you will discover this granulation covers both the main devices and fields - offering subdued highlights and contrast. On the other hand, the S-mint, although it generally offers an even DEEPER granulation/satin on the obverse, displays a chrome-like reverse - lacking any significant contrast between its devices and fields!

Therefore, luster on a 1935/34 set may be described as follows - 1935/34-P, Obv.-Rev./brilliant-frosty - 1935/34-D, Obv.-Rev./satin-matte - 1935/34-S, Obv./satin-matte, Rev./chrome-like.

Obviously, one cannot expect the luster on all three coins to "match" - no matter how original the set may be! Unfortunately, there are many people who either did not understand (or refused) to accept this numismatic fact of life and the final result is that MANY sets have been dipped-out and/or cleaned! The branch mints do NOT take well to even one dipping as the acid in the coin-dip eats into their already granular surfaces and tends to wash their delicate highlights right out! This has caused this low mintage set to become twice as rare in respect to original surfaces!

The above photo illustrates the deep granulation of a typical S-Mint's obverse.

STRIKE

Although the P-mint is not usually prone to loss of detail, the D-mint is normally slightly weaker on the Indian, and the chrome-like reverse of the S-mint is weaker still. Since they are consistent in this trait, I base my grading considerations on well struck "for the issue". Therefore, I happily accept a loss in detail on the S-mint, where I might not in the case of the P-mint. However, this lack of detail is not a problem anyway as I have yet to encounter a piece where it has taken away from the overall eye appeal of the coin.

As an interesting side note, the "D" mint mark is a product of repunching and a distinct "shift" can be viewed upon close examination. This has caused many a person undue concern over the possibility of an added mintmark! Although the D-mint's satin luster and granular surfaces easily distinguish it from the P-mint, I have taken the liberty of providing a blowup of both the "D" and the "S" mintmark to qualm any unnecessary fears. Please remember that shading has a lot to do with photography, so don't be surprised if your specimen looks a little different under a different light. When in doubt, show your coin to a specialist - especially if it doesn't have a satin/granular obverse, or the S-mint is void of a chrome-like reverse!

The above photos are blowups of the D & S mintmarks - note the shift in the "D"!

MARKS

Of course, Boone's cheek and jawbone are the critical areas to initially inspect for bag, track, and/or slide marks, but try not to confuse the ever present planchet abrasion for "rub" or friction. This is especially true of the branch mints as granular, satin surfaces tend to exaggerate this striking characteristic - the lack of bold highlights has a habit of drawing attention to this part of the coin.

Another minting characteristic you should be aware of is die polishing marks -especially when they form a crisscross pattern. Often times, I have had people mistake this for cleaning hairlines. Just make sure they are RAISED and not cutting into the coin! A blowup is shown to illustrate my point.

The photograph at the right gives you a good idea of the intensity and haphazard pattern of the die polishing marks on a 1935/34-D mint. As you can see, it displays a crisscross pattern and this succeeds in giving the coin its satin or "matte-like" luster by breaking up any "smooth", reflective ability of its surface. Add this to its granular surfaces - and you will encounter original specimens that are very reminiscent of the luster projected by matte proof coins. When toned, the die polishing marks and subtle highlights often suggest to the novice that the specimen in question has been cleaned or is somehow lacking in luster.

TONING

Sets displaying their original toning are rare. Sets exhibiting their original toning with all three coins grading MS-64 or better are very rare! However, do NOT expect all three coins, no matter how or where they have been stored, to have toning that "matches" in the traditional sense of the word! As we already know, the "type" of luster underneath the toning dictates its projection. In this case, with all three mints displaying highly different surfaces, you cannot realistically expect their toning to "match" - no matter how long they have been stored together!

The 1935-D set was distributed by Frank Dunn of Lexington, KY with each mint housed in a simple, brown cellophane and then placed between two pieces of corrugated cardboard for shipping in an oversized envelope. I have had sets that were still completely intact in their issuing envelopes and their toning is of a grey, "matte-like" nature. Even in this extreme case of total originality, the toning did NOT "match" on all three coins. Try not to expect the impossible, beauty can just as easily be found in the world of reality if you know what you are looking for!

SUMMARY

Original sets are rare - especially with the desired harmony of good luster (for the issue!), a good strike, and no detracting marks. Personally, aside from the 1939 Oregon Trail, this is my favorite set of the entire series. Each of the three 1935/34 Boone mints requires careful study and represents a true rarity as a whole. Originality is the key thing to consider when buying this issue. With only 2,003 possible sets, it is the lowest mintage of the entire silver commemorative issue.

1936-P (12,012), 1936-D (5,005), 1936-S (5,006)

LUSTER

By in large, the 1936PDS coins may be described as having "frosty/brilliant" surfaces. Of the three mints, the 1936-D is prone to displaying particularly flamboyant luster, highlights, and contrast - making it a popular "type" coin. Whenever examining a set or single, slowly tip & rotate each example underneath a direct light to carefully inspect for original surfaces. As with the 1935 mints, many specimens have been numismatically abused in regards to dipping.

STRIKE

In general, it is safe to state the 1936 Boone's are adequately struck coins. Of course, you will always find aberrations to this rule, but it wise to expect a little less detail on the branch mints - especially the S-mint.

MARKS

Bag, track, and slide marks are a common problem with many of these coins. Inspect the critical focal point (Boone's bust) for detracting marks while making your examinations. As with the "common" 1935 issue, many sets have been broken up to remove superior examples and many pieces being offered today as "type" lack eye appeal because of excessive marks.

TONING

Although many sets have been broken up, original sets are still to be found on today's marketplace. In this case, the toning is frequently vibrant and all three mints frequently "match" in color/body. Of course, this may be traced to the frosty/brilliant nature of the luster.

SUMMARY

Like the 1935 issue, seldom does one uncover an original set where all three mints grade MS-64 or better. In most cases, sets are being broken up for their higher grade coins to be sold as "type" singles. However, for those of you who are willing to accept a lower grade in return for a set with "matched" toning, the acquisition of an 1936PDS set still doesn't pose that much of a problem. For MS-64 and better quality, you will probably be forced to build your set one piece at a time.

1937-P (9,810), 1937-D (2,506), 1937-S (2,506)

LUSTER

The luster common to the 1937 mints are quite diverse. The P-mint may generally be classified as a brilliant/frosty coin - with bold highlights and contrast. The 1937-D leans more towards the frosty category - with varying degrees of highlights and contrast. The 1937-S can be found frosty, semi-prooflike, and deeply

prooflike. In the case of the prooflike examples the obverse surfaces are always more intense than their corresponding reverse. The degree of depth displayed by the prooflike surface also varies greatly - from slight to deep. As a rule, the deep prooflikes offer little contrast and I have only encountered a handful of examples which might come close to deserving the description of "cameo" - and even in these instances - their "cameo effect" was far from ideal!

The photo above shows the difference in contrast between a 1937-S PL (l.) and a "frosty" 1938-P coin (r.).

Many examples of all three mints have been dipped-out and their unwelcome appearance is all too common on today's marketplace. In respect to the prooflike 1937-S halves, dipped examples seem to be more the rule than the exception. I imagine the logic went something like this, "Boy, this coin is prooflike under the toning! If I dip it - I bet it comes out a real blazer!" Hence, after three or four attempts at fulfilling this logic - another beautiful specimen bites the dust.

STRIKE

As with most of the Boone dates, the 1937 specimens do not usually lose eye appeal due to a weakness of strike. Of course, the branch mints tend to be weaker than the P-mint - especially in regards to the Indian's head and clasped hands. After some educated comparison, you will discover the prooflikes to show the weakness detail of all three mints. The deeper the PL - the less pronounced the Indian's head and clasped hands. Personally, I have never been forced to downgrade any 1937 Boone (regardless of mint) because of its strike. It's just a question of understanding how they normally come off the press.

MARKS

Primarily due to their low mintage, it is difficult to find "D" and "S" specimens without detracting marks - especially on the critical, obverse focal point. Somehow, I suspect the 1937 branch mints received a little better handling during distribution, but their low mintage certainly evaporated any potential for an abundance of "fairly mark free" coins to be available on today's marketplace! As with all coins, the important aspect to determining the impact (no pun intended) marks make on the grade of a specimen is their size, number, origin, and location.

As with the "frosty" examples, both the prooflike and semi-prooflike examples will display various degrees of die polish and planchet abrasion. Once again, please do not mistake these striking characteristics as some form of numismatic abuse! Comparison and educated advice are essential to learning how to visually appraise these coins.

The two photographs below are a good illustration of heavy die polishing

TONING

As can be expected, there is no definitive "look" to the toning on these coins. Just remember that the surfaces/luster underneath the toning dictates their ultimate projection. This fact is especially wise when inspecting TONED, 1937-S, PL specimens as some people tend to misinterpret the planchet abrasion and die polishing marks as some form of abuse - either as "friction" and/or "cleaning hairlines." Needless to say, original, toned, sets are as rare as their low mintage indicates.

SUMMARY

The 1937PDS is an extremely elusive set! This is another case where the potential buyer is consistently forced to build his/her own set in order to acquire all three mints in MS-64 or better condition. MS-63+ material is also very hard to come by as many specimens offered on today's marketplace simply lack eye appeal - mainly due to dipping/cleaning and to a lesser extent - detracting marks.

1938-P (2,100), 1938-D (2,100), 1938-S (2,100)

LUSTER

The luster on the 1938 issue normally offers what can be termed as "frosty", but usually a little granular in body. The coins tend to lack impressive contrast between their devices and fields as their surfaces are fairly uniform, but unlike satin finish examples, they have a nice habit of projecting strong highlights. On some examples, usually the branch mints (the "S" in particular), there is a tendency to suggest a "chrome-like" surface, but these examples are not the rule and are simply a result of steel brushing of the dies.

Of course, the previous description is for ORIGINAL examples and they are NOT easy to come by! Dipping and cleaning have taken a heavy toll on these low mintage coins and virgin specimens are very scarce. As with most low mintage coins, meaningful comparison becomes difficult, so I strongly suggest you seek EDUCATED, WILLING, advice BEFORE you make a financial decision.

STRIKE

As with the 1937 set, weakness of strike does not pose a problem. Although the branch mints frequently display a tad less detail, I have never seen a set where the strike took away from the grade or eye appeal of the coins.

marks normally encountered on the typical prooflike 1937-S Boone.

MARKS

Due to its very low mintage, locating specimens without detracting marks poses quite a problem. This can be particularly frustrating as I can remember carefully searching for original sets, finally being able to locate one or two, only to discover that one of the three mints displayed a nasty crack on Boone's cheekbone! Needless to say, this necessitates a "mix and match" arrangement in the marks department, but the low mintage of these coins frequently results in a long and tedious quest.

Planchet abrasion, especially on the S-mint, is a fact of numismatic life. Although it normally does NOT run "heavy", the uniformity of these coins' surfaces and the lack of contrast between their devices/fields tends to draw attention to the focal point - Boone's cheekbone. Hence, light or moderate planchet abrasion is often times erroneously mistaken as some form of numismatic abuse. Die polishing marks are also not an uncommon occurrence - just make sure YOUR lines are raised!

TONING

As with the 1937 issue, it has been my pleasure to occasionally encounter sets that display just breathtaking toning in respect to body, color, and originality. As the novelty of the Boone series wore off with the general public, coins purchased after 1936 were generally acquired by the "hard-core" (i.e. dealers, collectors, and speculators). As a rule, sets were not broken up and all three mints housed together.

This has encouraged the existence of some wonderfully "matched" sets in regards to toning, but they are rare. Their rarity stems from the fact that not only is the 1938 mintage low, but, although originally purchased by the "hard-core" - a large percentage of coins have been dipped-out and cleaned along the way. However, these colorful sets are still a delightful sight to behold and they command strong dollar premiums over their actual, mint state levels.

SUMMARY

The 1938 Boone set is a very scarce set - especially in true MS-64 and better condition! Overshadowed by the 1935/34 set, it is generally highly underestimated in regards to its true, relative rarity. Matched sets in regards to toning may be occasionally found, but command very stiff, monetary premiums. Sets that are "matched" in respect to BOTH toning and grade are rare. The 1938 issue is extremely difficult to locate with strong eye appeal on today's marketplace and constitutes one of the most elusive sets of the entire U.S. Commemorative series.

* * * * * SOCIETY MEETINGS * * * * *

Chicago Meeting -- August

by Michael K. Garofalo (LM-23, NH)

On Saturday, August 17, 1991 at 9 a.m., our Society held its annual meeting at the ANA convention. While I frantically looked for the slide projector and screen that were supposed to be waiting for us, Ralph Langham kept the gathering of approximately 65 people entertained with a few humorous stories.

It was my pleasure to call the meeting to order and the first order of business was the introduction of our officers. After thanking the retiring officers, I had the distinct pleasure of making an announcement that surprised a number of attendees. Many organizations honor their valued members by naming an award after them -- after they have "passed on." In breaking with that tradition, we created an award to honor the actions of a couple of living, active Society members. These people have given years of selfless dedication to furthering the aims of our Society. Having reviewed the contributions of all of our past members, none approach the generosity and dedication of these two people. With those statements in mind, it was my honor and pleasure to establish THE CARMODY AWARD.

"The Carmody Award" will be presented annually to the member or members "who best exemplify the spirit of cooperation, the sharing of knowledge, and the understanding that this year's recipients display." It is only fitting that our first recipients were HELEN and DON CARMODY. This award (which is not yet finished) will be presented annually to a worthy recipient. Each year's recipient will receive a smaller plaque, and the recipient's name will be engraved on the Society's larger plaque. We plan to display this award at major coin conventions throughout the United States. It is also our intention to allow Helen or Don Carmody to present this award annually. Thanks to contributions from Ray Mercer and yours truly, a special fund is being established to provide for the annual plaques and transportation of the Society's plaque. Feel free to contact Barbara Garofalo, Society treasurer, to make a contribution to this worthy cause. [See the inside front cover of this issue for Barbara's mailing address.]

However, that was not the last honor that the Carmodys were to receive that Saturday morning. Bob Van Ryzin, Society member and staff member of Numismatic News, presented to Helen and Don the "Numismatic Ambassador Award." The text of Bob's remarks are included as a special feature in this issue of the Trail. Personally I couldn't think of any two more deserving people than Helen and Don Carmody for these awards. For those of us who know and respect them, these two awards were fitting tributes to them and a fitting highlight to this wonderful convention.

Our very special guest speaker was Society member Albert K. Hall, a prominent numismatist who is extremely active in numerous coin clubs in California. Al, the 1990 ANA Outstanding Club Representative, has garnered countless prestigious awards for his exhibits on the local, state, and national level. His program was "An Overview of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition," on which he is one of our hobby's foremost experts. Al captivated the audience with his extraordinary slides of the Expo's construction period and the finished spectacle, bringing to life this historic event with the most minute facts and vivid illustrations. At first "we were there" as workers reclaimed the swampland of

Jackson Square in 1891 to make way for the magnificent edifices that were to follow. Then, we were viewing the splendor of the White City with its endless rows of architectural marvels: The Court of Honor; the Administration Building; the incredible Golden Door of the Transportation Building (whose designer was assisted by the legendary Frank Lloyd Wright) with its eight elevators and restaurant. What a once-in-a-lifetime experience it must have been to ride in the gigantic Ferris Wheel! No one could ever forget the panorama viewed from one of its cars, and no one fortunate enough to hear Al Hall's presentation could ever forget this milestone in our commemorative history. We thank you, Al, for making our Chicago meeting one we shall long remember. [By the way, if any member knows of an available Ferris Wheel ticket from the Expo, please let us hear from you. Al has been looking for one to add to his collection, and for his many kindnesses and service to our Society, we'd like to assist him in his search.]

Long Beach Meeting -- October

by Helen L. Carmody (R-0007, CA)

Fifty members and guests eagerly awaited the speaker, Larry J. Shepherd (R-0834, OH), who was to present a slide program and narrative describing the sale in August of his collection of U.S. silver commemorative coins.

However, before the attendees could vicariously enjoy experiencing the emotions Larry felt as his coins were finding new "homes," several noteworthy happenings took place after Vice President Helen L. Carmody opened the Society's meeting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 12th. The entire proceedings were videotaped by Society member David Lisot of Media Resource Corporation.

In appreciation for outstanding devotion and service to our organization, Helen presented plaques to former President Ray Mercer and outgoing Secretary Mitchell A. Yee.

It was announced that Society dues were being raised to $20 for adults and $8 for YNs, this action having been necessitated by steadily increasing postage and printing expenses. Because our club year runs from August to August, with dues being payable as of the ANA Centennial Convention, Helen reminded everyone that she and Don Carmody would be accepting dues payments during the Expo.

Guests were reminded of upcoming meetings to be held at the F.U.N. Convention in January and the Long Beach Expo in February of 1992. Hopefully, our new editor will dig into his event-database and share with us the dates and sites of the 1992 conventions and expos at which our Society regularly meets.

Rather than duplicate much of what was included in Larry Shepherd's talk, the writer has not covered its substance and instead asks the reader to refer to Larry's article in this issue. After the program by Larry Shepherd, which was very warmly received by those in attendance, the meeting was condluded with special acknowledgment given to the wonderful Long Beach Expo staff: Sam Lopresto, Gus Argeris, Teresa Darling, Dale Snyder, and everyone who contributes so much to the success of our meetings at Long Beach three times a year. NEXT MEETINGS: FUN, Orlando, Florida, January 11; Long Beach, CA, February 8. Society meetings are always held on Saturday at 9 a.m.

On the following page is a photograph of the award presented to retiring president RAYMOND G. MERCER (R-0020, CT). (Photo by Roy T. Iwata)

FOR SERVICES THAT CAN NEVER BE
ADEQUATELY ENUMERATED NOR RECIPROCATED

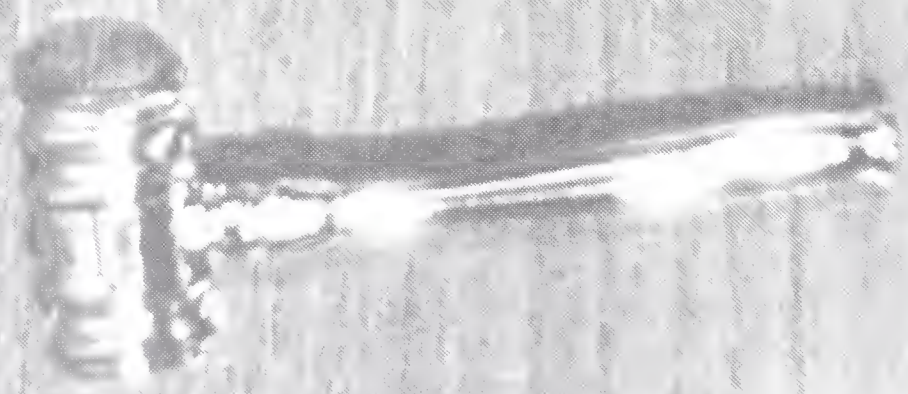
Raymond G. Mercer

R-20

OUR ASSOCIATE, OUR MENTOR, AND,
BEST OF ALL, OUR FRIEND

NEWSLETTER EDITOR 1984-1987
PRESIDENT 1989-1991

SOCIETY FOR
U.S. COMMEMORATIVE COINS



Introduction to a Special Feature

As noted in Mike Garofalo's report on our Society meeting at the ANA's Centennial Convention, two of our Society members were presented with the Krause Publications' Numismatic Ambassador Award. When Society member Bob Van Ryzin, representing Krause, rose to present this award, our assembled members leaned forward in their chairs, eager to hear every word he had to say. Many in the audience had previously heard Bob speak (some had been lucky enough to attend his excellent presentation Ezra Meeker and the Oregon Trail at a Society meeting in Long Beach), and all were ready to listen!

Bob provided the audience with fascinating details about the criteria for selecting Numismatic Ambassadors; recited the qualifications of those who were about to be presented the Award; and then, to thunderous applause, announced the names of ... well, you know who ... and made the formal presentation.

As accurately as we have been able to reproduce them, Bob's remarks appear in the following article. So, sit for a few moments, put yourself in the shoes of those who were there; enjoy the fellowship, the sharing, the pride, and the sense of "being there" as the Trail turns to Chicago!

* * * * * THE NUMISMATIC AMBASSADOR AWARD * * * * *

A Presentation

by Robert R. Van Ryzin (R-1973, WI)

In the past I have attended meetings of the Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins on behalf of Numismatic News as a reporter -- to cover the news of elections and to report back to our readers on presentations made before the Society such as the one you are to hear today by Albert Hall. This time, however, I have the pleasure of not only reporting the news but in helping to make it. And the honor of presenting the hobby's most prestigious award -- The Numismatic Ambassador Award.

One of my first assignments upon joining the staff of Krause Publications late in 1986 was to write an article relating the background of the Numismatic Ambassador Awards program, its inception and, most importantly, the qualifications of a Numismatic Ambassador. Searching through prior editorials and announcements of Ambassador Awards dating back to the program's inception in 1974, I was able to compile the following:

1. A Numismatic Ambassador is by definition the club member who never fails to ask "What can I do?" and more often is the collector who finds something that needs to be done and does it without asking.

2. A Numismatic Ambassador is the collector who is willing to share the vast knowledge and experience he or she has gained through years in the hobby by presenting education forums and exhibits and through a willingness to answer the questions of less-advanced or beginning collectors.

3. A Numismatic Ambassador is a person who has earned the respect of peers for his or her quest for knowledge.

4. A Numismatic Ambassador is one who wants to know everything there is to know about coins, tokens, medals, or paper mony; a person interested not just in the market value or demand for a given item, but who also demands to know the often well-hidden details behind its origin and shares this knowledge with others.

I closed that article by saying:

"The award is often the last thing in the world the person worthy of being an Ambassador expects to receive. It is obvious such an award cannot be applied for, it cannot be actively solicited, and it cannot be obtained without a persevering dedication to the hobby. It is an award (and this is the key) that is presented only to those who would have served the hobby with the same dedication with or without recognition.

Today's recipients certainly fit this description.

1. Both are best known to Society members for their unending efforts to promote the study and collection of U.S. commemorative coins.

2. Both have served as Society president and in other offices as well.

3. One serves as a regional coordinator for the ANA, overseeing activities of nearly 100 clubs in a two-state area.

4. Both are also active members of the California State Numismatic Association and Hawaii State Numismatic Association.

5. Both have served as speakers and exhibitors and have contributed to the Society's publication, The Commemorative Trail, and to the furtherance of education and research.

6. Both today are being honored, as the plaque at the entrance to Krause Publications' executive wing reads (and to which their names will be added) for "Dedicated, Selfless Devotion to Coin Collecting Goals."

I ask everyone in attendance now to join me in extending warm congratulations to DON and HELEN CARMODY as they accept the Numismatic Ambassador Award.

* * *

Happy Trails to You!

On behalf of our Society, we want to thank Krause Publications for its endless and selfless dedication to our hobby. The Numismatic Ambassador Award is but one of many of the innovative contributions Krause Publications has made to the field of numismatics. This award is widely recognized as according to its recipients one of the highest of honors our hobby can bestow. So we say thank you to to KRAUSE PUBLICATIONS -- thank you to NUMISMATIC NEWS -- thank you to BOB VAN RYZIN -- and congratulations to HELEN and DON CARMODY!

Helen and Don graciously accepted their Numismatic Ambassador Awards, and, as everyone who knows this cordial and warm hearted couple would expect, they promptly sent a touching letter of appreciation to Krause Publications. We are happy to be able to share with our readers the Carmodys' letter, which appears in its entirety on the following page.

Specializing in U.S. Commemorative Silver Coinage

O'CARMODY'S COINS

P.O. Box 302
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Helen L. Carmody
President

Donald L. Carmody
Founder

August 27, 1993

Messrs. Chester L. Krause, Clifford Mishler,
Albert "Bo" Smith, Robert E. Wilhite,
Robert R. Van Ryzin, et al.
Numismatic News
700 East State Street
Iola, Wisconsin 54990

Gentlemen:

Words cannot adequately express our deep appreciation in being named Numismatic Ambassadors at the Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins annual meeting held during the ANA Centennial Convention.

Our involvement in numismatics has always been extremely rewarding, and we feel we have received much more than we will ever be able to give back to the hobby that has afforded us so many years of enjoyment, learning, and the greatest benefit of all -- the friendship of others with whom we have mutual interests and for whom we have the utmost respect.

The joys and benefits of being part of the numismatic fraternity were truly magnified when Bob Van Ryzin, our fellow Society member and writer whose work has contributed so much to promoting education, presented us with our award. We have been genuinely moved by the warm sentiments of past recipients and all those who have communicated their kind acknowledgments not only at the convention but since we returned home.

Being included in the ranks of Numismatic Ambassadors is a humbling and cherished honor, and we shall do everything within our power to continue to be worthy of this unique tribute from our peers. Our profound thanks to everyone who made our selection possible.

Most sincerely,

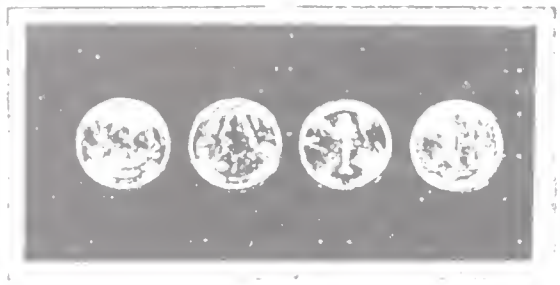
Helen + Don

HELEN & DON CARMODY

Attention—Collectors and Dealers

WYNNE'S COIN MAILING HOLDER

Can Be Used in Filing Cabinets
Be Wise And Use The New System



Size of Holder, 3⅛x6½, 3⅛x6.

This Coin Mailing Holder shown above has 4 Half Dollar openings, with celluloid slide to cover one side of coin. Made of black material, which shows up the silver coins. Can be had in all sizes from 1 cent to 1 dollar. Special price to dealers and distributors of Commemorative Half Dollars.

RETAIL PRICE TEN CENTS EACH.

Will take in Commemorative Gold and Silver in exchange for holders. Must be Unc. Have a few sets of Providence left. What price am I bid?

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San Diego Cal. Pac. Int. Expo.
1936-D Comm. Half Dollar

ADVANCE PRICE $1.50 EACH POSTPAID

ORDER NOW.

HURRY! HURRY! HURRY!

1935 Issue Reduced to 70,000. All Sold But 1,800.
That's All There Are Left.

New Price $2.00 Each Postpaid

Notice to Dealers—Do Not Cut This Price. No More Available.
All Orders Filled Promptly—Send Cash With Order.

BRUCE L. WALLACE, Numismatist

1230 Fifth Ave., San Diego, Calif.

Above is shown a page from the past -- reproduced from the July, 1936 issue of The Numismatist and submitted by Society member Q. David Bowers, who writes: "Wynne holders were used for Cleveland and Cincinnati half dollars. Holders for the 1946 Booker T. Washington half dollars were of much cheaper construction, and I suspect that they had nothing at all to do with Wynne!"

Above are shown the obverse and reverse of the U.S. Mint medal presented to sculptor Adam Pietz, designer of the Iowa commem. It reads: "TO ADAM PIETZ FROM HIS ASSOCIATES IN THE ENGRAVING DEPARTMENT IN TOKEN OF THEIR ESTEEM 1927 - 1946." This medal was but one of many items of Iowa memorabilia displayed by member Michael "Stan" Turrini (LM-0031, CA) at one of our Society's Long Beach meetings during 1991.

(Photos courtesy of Roy T. Iwata)

Introduction to a Feature Article

As we have written in the past, no U.S. commemorative coin has been the subject of more detailed or more scholarly research and documentation than the 1946 Iowa. We are pleased to present here Part 4 of a continuing series of articles on the Iowa half dollar written by Society member Michael S. Turrini (LM-31, CA). In the spring issue of the Trail (Volume 7, No. 1), we published Part 3 of this series (beginning on page 61). In that same issue we also published a photograph (by Roy T. Iwata) of the plaque our Society awarded to Michael S. Turrini ... "For Extraordinary Dedication and Unparalleled Research." Ray Mercer, who was then president of our Society, presented the award to "Stan" Turrini during a Society meeting at Long Beach (see page 38, Volume 7, No. 1).

* * *

THE 1946 IOWA STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE HALF DOLLAR - Part 4

by Michael S. "Stan" Turrini (LM-31, CA)

The highest honor the State of Iowa can bestow is "The Iowa Award," and so esteemed is this award that since its inception only 11 individuals have been honored as recipients.

The Iowa Award is a direct result of the sales of the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial commemorative half dollar. The proceeds to fund the Iowa Award, presented about once every five years, were earned from the 1946-1947 sales of this commemorative half dollar. The purposes of this fund were provided for in the Executive Proclamation of Governor Robert D. Blue dated January 5, 1949. In this continuing series on the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial commemorative half dollar, this fourth article will summarize the Iowa Award and list its respected recipients. (1)

The governing provision of the Iowa Award is in the Articles of Incorporation of the "Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation," which was established by Governor Blue's Proclamation, Article I, Paragraph 6:

> "To this end, the income from the trust fund shall be used to encourage and recognize achievement and outstanding service to Iowa citizens in the fields of science, medicine, law, religion, social welfare, education, agriculture, industry, government, and public service of outstanding and of state-wide importance and merit. That these purposes may be accomplished by the use of scholarships or loans to students, or by use of awards, medals or any other proper means of recognizing ability, service, or achievement by Iowa citizens which have resulted in outstanding benefit or honor to the State or nation as a whole. (2)

The Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation, later confirmed by acts of the Iowa State Legislature, adopted May 15, 1951, has certain avowed purposes, one of which is to use "awards, medals, or any other means of recognizing ability, service, or achievement by Iowa citizens ..." (3) As the previous article in this series on the late Governor Robert D. Blue (1898-1989) noted, thanks to his

daughter Barbara Blue Dittmar's kind remembrances, the Iowa Award is exactly what Governor Blue would have wanted: something from the centennial year (1946) respecting and honoring others so long after.

The procedure for selecting recipients is not known, and it seems that through the years differing methods may have been applied. The Bylaws of the Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation, Article IV, provide for the permanent Standing Committee of Awards and Medals. It can be concluded that any intial recommendations and discussions as to potential recipients originate with this committee which later proposed same to the full foundation.

Just for information, the foundation, a non-profit legally-authorized corporation within Iowa, is composed of Iowa's current governor, state treasurer, attorney-general, and president of the State Board of Education. It also includes all former Iowa governors who legally reside within Iowa and wish to serve plus four citizens-at-large who serve staggered terms and are appointed by the governor. The foundation meets annually, usually in July, in Des Moines, the capital of Iowa.

To date, recipients of the iowa Award as listed in the current edition of the Iowa State Register are:

1951 .... President Herbert Hoover
1955 .... Jan N. "Ding" Darling
1961 .... Dr. Frank Spedding
1961 .... Dr. James Van Allen
1966 .... Henry A. Wallace
1970 .... Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower
1975 .... Dr. Karl King
1978 .... Dr. Norman Borlaug
1980 .... Monsignor Luigi Liguitti
1984 .... George Gallup
1988 .... Meredith Willson

Most names are well-enough known to explain his or her selection, and most standard biographical references or encyclopedias would provide much more information on each than is given here. Needless to say, all are, or were, Iowans.

The first Iowa Award recipient was former President Herbert Hoover, who was born in West Branch, Iowa. He was nominated by Ralph Evans, citizen member of the foundation, and seconded by Governor Blue at the foundation June 7, 1951, meeting. The minutes read:

> "Moved that one of the original fifty-cent pieces struck by the United States Mint and now contained in a plastic case in the Treasurer's Office be given to Ex-President of the United States, Herbert Hoover, at the time of his appearance in the State of Iowa, to receive the first "Iowa Award." The motion was duly put by the Chairman and unanimously passed. (4)

It was recorded in the minutes of the May 21, 1952, foundation meeting that "The Iowa Award to former President Herbert Hoover was made at the State Fairgrounds in Des Moines on the afternoon of August 30, 1951 ... and after the luncheon a Centennial Half Dollar was presented to Mr. Hoover by Ralph Evans on behalf of the Foundation." (5)

Ralph Evans had been "the main member of the committee who looked after the coins;" (6) actually, he was the chairman of the "Sub-Committee on Coin" of the Iowa Centennial Committee which coordinated and supervised the events and activities of Iowa's Statehood Centennial in 1946. Future articles in this series will review the late Mr. Evans and his work on this half dollar and the committee's sales of the half dollar in 1946 and 1947.

As read, implied with the Iowa Award is the presentation of one Iowa half dollar; however, in researching records available to this author, except for President Hoover's half dollar, it is not clear whether the other ten recipients also received a half dollar. Governor Blue, in a letter to this author, stated that "coins were not used for Iowa Award," (7) but Governor N. A. Erbe, former Governor of Iowa (1961-1963), and an active member of the foundation, believes each, except for the latest, has been presented a half dollar.

What is known is that each recipient would receive, beginning with Meredith Willson in 1988, a specially struck "medal hung on a red, white, and blue ribbon" (8) and a certificate. The actual presentation is a ceremony presided over by the governor, who makes the award; the event is usually a large public gathering with media coverage. The initiative for this new medal and certificate was undertaken by Governor Erbe.

The newly-issued Iowa Award medal was designed by Rebecca Ekstrand, a well-known Iowa sculptress who had received previous commissions across Iowa. Her work was assisted by Dee Erbe Wittmack, a designer by profession working for the Meredith Publishing Company. Mrs. Wittmack is the daughter of Governor Erbe, who proposed the medal and consulted Mrs. Ekstrand on the final design.

Above is shown The Iowa Award. This exceptionally "crispy clear" photo was taken by Society member Roy T. Iwata. The first recipient of this medal was Meredith Willson, posthumously in 1988. The medal is copyrighted by the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The medal, 2 1/4" in diameter, is uniface; the reverse is for engraving the recipient's name and the date of award. The composition is polished bronze. Ten medals were minted by the Metalcraft Mint of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The State Historical Society of Iowa stores eight and the State Treasurer's Office has one for public display. Note that one has already been awarded.

Governor Erbe remarked that at "our present rate of designating honorees the (the nine medals) should last for forty years." (9)

The symbols on the medal are most fittingly Iowan: the state bird, eastern goldfinch; state flower, wild rose; and state tree, oak (the leaves and acorns) over an outline of the state. The eagle with the ribbon -- "Our Liberties We Prize and Our Rights We Maintain" -- is the state motto and is similar to the eagle on the half dollar's reverse.

Regardless of whether or not a half dollar is or has been bestowed, only eleven recipients have been so honored. The brief sketches of each follow:

1951, President Herbert Hoover (1874-1965). Engineer, humanitarian, author, and president of the United States (1929-1933). First president born west of the Mississippi River.

1955, Jay N. "Ding" Darling (1875-1962). Renowned cartoonist and conservationist. Twice won the Pulitzer Prize. Creator of Federal Duck Stamps. (10)

1961, Dr. James Van Allen, born September 7, 1914, at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Famous physicist and educator. Worked in early rocket and space explorations.

1966, Henry A. Wallace (1888-1965). Secretary of Agriculture (1933-1941) and vice-president of the United States (1941-1945). Famous as agricultural specialist. Developer of hybrid corn. The award was posthumous.

1970, Mamie Eisenhower (1896-1979). Beloved first lady and wife of five-star general and President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Born at Boone, Iowa.

1975, Dr. Karl King (1891-1971). Bandmaster and composer. Wrote about three hundred works. Served a fifty-year career as director of the Fort Dodge Municipal Band. The award was posthumous.

1978, Dr. Norman Borlaug, born March 25, 1914, near Cresco, Iowa. Plant pathologist and geneticist. Received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. Developed "green revolution." Lives and works in Mexico City, FD, Mexico.

1980, Monsignor Luigi Liguitti, born March 21, 1895, in Italy. Clergyman. Naturalized United States citizen. Director of National Catholic Rural Life Conference/Movement based in Granger, Iowa. Worked both in Granger and the Vatican.

1984, George Gallup (1901-1984). Known for his studies of public opinion sampling. Founder of the Gallup Poll and Quill and Scroll, an honorary society

for high school journalism.

1988, Meredith Willson (1902-1984). Composer. Most famous for his musical, "The Music Man," which was in part based on his home town of Mason City, Iowa. The award was posthumous.

There is no record of who else may have been considered, and the next award is not anticipated until 1992 or later. Those who are not native Iowans have been noted.

Just a little story about the award given to George Gallup: Deputy State Treasurer Steven F. Miller remembers that, due to an oversight and his very short visit to Des Moines, George Gallup was never presented a half dollar. There was a discussion about mailing him one; his death shortly thereafter ended such an idea.

Another story on this award is that Rosemary Willson, wife of the late Meredith Willson, who was deeply moved by the tribute, was bestowed both a medal, the first to receive one, and a large ornate certificate inscribed "Meredith Willson, son of Iowa, has engendered in the citizens of his native state a deep sense of pride, esteem, and satisfaction that he is one of us. He has served us well." (11) It was signed by then Governor Terry Branstad and four former Iowa governors: Robert D. Blue, N. A. Erbe, Harold E. Hughs and Robert D. Ray.

If a half dollar is given, [it is from] the source of the supply, currently inventoried at 23, retained by the state treasurer, presently the Honorable Michael L. Fitzgerald, within the treasurer's vault at the state capitol building. These half dollars seem to be from a group set aside in 1948 and may be from the first fifty Iowa half dollars minted on November 20, 1946. At the time, it was decided to hold separate the first fifty coins out of the 100,000 total mintage. These first half dollars and the minting will be reviewed in a future article in this series.

For numismatists and commemorative coinage students, the Iowa Award may not mean much unless a recipient has an Iowa half dollar; however, as this series progresses, this article is more than just another story about the 1946 Iowa Centennial half dollar. It is a fitting testimonial to the late Governor Robert D. Blue's foresight in chartering the Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation that over four decades later the proceeds of the Iowa half dollars' sales continue to "honor the memory and achievements of our forefathers and serve our children and our children's children" and in doing so "inspire future citizens of Iowa." (12)

FOOTNOTES

1. The two primary sources for researching and writing this article were Steven F. Miller, Deputy State Treasurer of Iowa, and Governor N. A. Erbe, former governor of Iowa (1961-1963), whose repeated interest and involvement are most appreciated.
2. Governor Robert D. Blue, Executive Proclamation, January 5, 1949.
3. Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation, Articles of Incorporation, Article I.
4. Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation, minutes of June 7, 1951 meeting. A copy of those minutes was taken from original Minutes Book of the Foundation and provided to this author courtesy of Deputy State Treasurer Steven F. Miller.

Supposedly, the old records of the foundation are stored in the same safe deposit box as the hoard of 1,000 Iowa half dollars which was reviewed in previous articles in this series.

5. Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation, minutes of May 21, 1952 meeting. As the foundation meets annualy, this would account for the time separating this quote and the prior one, Footnote 4.

6. Governor Robert D. Blue, letter of August 15, 1988.

7. Governor Robert D. Blue, letter of December 15, 1988.

8. Governor N. A. Erbe, letter of September 27, 1988.

9. Governor N. A. Erbe, letter of May 13, 1990.

10. "Ding" Darling and President Hoover apparently were close friends; both were Republicans and had known each other over many years. [The original footnote included reference to a cartoon which accompanied the article reprinted here. The cartoon, entitled "The Iowa Award," was drawn by J. N. Darling and presented to Ex-President Herbert Hoover in 1955. The cartoon, which is copyrighted, is not included in this issue of the Trail.]

11. Certificate of the Iowa Award to Meredith Willson. Copy of wording provided courtesy of Governor N. A. Erbe.

12. Governor Robert D. Blue, Executive Proclamation, January 5, 1949.

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[This article was dedicated by the author to Governor N. A. Erbe, Governor of Iowa (1961-1963). The author expresses his most humble and profuse appreciation to Governor Erbe for his repeated and continued interest and involvement in this series. This article was first published in the July 1990, issue of The Journal, the quarterly publication of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society (PCNS), and is reproduced here (excepting the cartoon by "Ding" Darling) with the kind permission of its editors, David F. and Rebecca Cieniewicz, P.O. Box 2698, Redwood City, CA 94064-2698. Annual subscriptions to The Journal, which include PCNS membership, are $15.00. PCNS may be contacted in care of the editors at the address above. Our Society is deeply indebted to both the author and to PCNS for allowing us to reprint this article. Thank You!]

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* * * * * Potholes Along the Trail * * * * *

Frequently, when typesetting the Trail, it happens that we end up with a few blank lines following an article. Such is the case here. It costs us just as much in printing and postage to publish "blank spots" as it would cost us to include something useful in such spaces. Every publication needs "fillers" for plugging into these gaps, and ours is no exception. So, rather than leave "potholes" along the Trail, maybe you can help by providing us with some "fillers." Anything pertinent -- anecdotes, announcements, etc. -- would be welcome.

* * * * * NAME THAT COMMEM! * * * * *

Above is an XCU photo taken from a U.S. commemorative half dollar. Homer thought this was the "E-Ticket" ride, Pirates of the Caribbean, at Disneyland, but we sent him back to his "Redbook" -- and he came up with the correct answer!

(Photo courtesy of Bill Fivaz)

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* * * * * RECOMMENDED READING * * * * *

From time to time, as our members of long-standing know, we include in the pages of the Trail a column entitled "Recommended Reading." In the past, we've advised our readers about articles on commemorative coins that have appeared in one or another of the major numismatic publications. Sometimes we have also provided a summary of the references of primary importance to commem specialists. In this issue of the Trail we have added, immediately following this column, a section on "Recommended Writing," this having been prompted by comments we've heard regarding the recently published Encyclopedia by Society member Q. David Bowers.

Adding to the wealth of information regarding our favorite numismatic series are articles that have appeared in two national magazines and two weekly newspapers since we last reported on this subject.

COINage magazine had three features of interest in its June issue: "Remembering Columbus," "The James Earle Fraser Heritage," and "First '91 Commems." "The Commemorative Era" in the August issue recommended ownership of several invaluable references. "My Two Cents' Worth" (Ed Reiter's must-read editorial), "1946," and (even though not directly related to commemorative coins) "The Do's and Don'ts of a Coin Show" provided readers with pertinent observations and helpful facts in the September issue. "Getting on the Commemorative Bandwagon" (with views from Helen & Don Carmody, Ray Mercer, and Anthony Swiatek) and "The

First Columbian" were featured in the October issue. [COINage is published by Miller Magazines, Inc., 4880 East Market Street, Ventura, CA 93003; $23 for 12 monthly issues. Please note that this is a new address for Miller Magazines. The new telephone number is (805) 644-3824. The firm, which also publishes other hobby magazines, recently expanded into a larger facility. The publisher, James L. Miller, told the Trail staff that COINage plans to feature additional articles on commems in upcoming issues and invited us to submit information on our Society for inclusion in COINage. We'll do that. Thank you, Mr. Miller!]

Coins magazine featured "The Coinage Art of the Frasers" in its July issue. The September edition explored "The Plight of U.S. Commemoratives." The "Basics & Beyond" column in October generally covered 1892-1954 U.S. commemoratives and specifically discussed several inexpensive issues (those costing less than $100 wholesale in MS-60). The November issue had "Silver Proof Sets are Back" (sometimes one must look beyond the headlines to learn important information!); "Basics & Beyond," continuing the survey of inexpensive commemoratives but elaborating as well on issuers' excesses and ships appearing on commems; and "S-mint Legends," noting interesting facts regarding the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition gold $50 pieces. [Coins is published by Krause Publications, Inc., 700 East State Street, Iola, WI 54990; $19.95 for 12 monthly issues.]

Needless to say, coverage from the weekly numismatic press has been as excellent as always. Articles in Numismatic News since June have included features on the Antietam, Panama-Pacific Exposition $50 gold, Ezra Meeker, 1986 Statue of Liberty half dollar, the Society's meeting at the ANA Centennial Convention, and commem memorabilia. [Numismatic News is published by Krause Publications -- see address above; $27.95 for 53 issues -- Alternatively, see "News Flash" on page 4 of this issue of the Trail for a substantial discount.]

Coin World has also kept commemorative coins before the collecting fraternity with regular columns by Q. David Bowers, David Ganz, and Anthony Swiatek. Korean War and USO dollars, 1988 Olympic $5 coin, The Carmody Award, Elizabeth Jones's service award, and many other timely features have all contributed to publicizing commemoratives. [Coin World is published by Amos Press, 911 Vandemark Road, Sidney, OH 45365; $26 for 52 weekly issues.]

Our sincere thanks to everyone associated with the numismatic press for promoting education about our hobby, in general, and our Society, in particular. Now, read on to learn about Q. David Bowers' new book ... and future books?

* * *

* * * * * RECOMMENDED WRITING * * * * *

In the spring issue of the Trail, (Volume 7, #2) we presented an article entitled "A Commemorative Book is Created," by Society member Q. David Bowers (R-0548, NH). The article provided our readers with a brief history of the evolution of the author's interest in commemorative coins, beginning with a gift of a "worn 1893 Columbian Exposition half dollar" given him by his maternal grandfather back in 1948, and ending with his plans for publishing a book consisting of "... over 500 pages in size and probably closer to 600." That book is now a reality. Commemorative Coins of the U.S., A Complete Encyclopedia, by Q. David Bowers -- all 768 pages of it --is now in the hands of many of our members and others who ought to be members of our Society.

We highly recommend that you acquire a copy of this seminal reference work for your personal library if you have not already done so (contact: Publications Department, Bowers and Merena Galleries, P.O. Box 1224, Wolfeboro, NH 03894).

It is doubtful that anyone has yet had time to study this new encyclopedia from cover to cover, yet the comments are already trickling in. Complaints? No, the comments are not complaints. How could anyone complain about a book which is undeniably the most comprehensive and the best ever written on our favorite coinage series? Rather, the comments we have heard all indicate a thirst for additional information, and they very positively point out our common need for even more comprehensive numismatic writing in the future.

The Trail staff is unaware of any complaint pertaining to the material included in Mr. Bowers' new encyclopedia; rather, each "comment" addresses some item or category which was either not included or not included as fully as some might have wished. What is it that commem specialists seem to want more of in our literature? Well, we'll share their thoughts with you. First, however, it is appropriate to remind our readers that, while few of us have the interest or the capacity to create a new encyclopedia, most do have the ability to write an article for publication in the Trail. For those of our members who have a particular sub-specialty interest in our commem hobby, perhaps the best way to get the answers to your own questions is to begin by writing something for publication in our journal -- a "letter to the editor" or a brief article will do. You may be surprised as a result of such an effort to learn that there are probably others who share your exact interests. So, if you can't write an encyclopedia, try writing something for the Trail in response to this column on "Recommended Writing."

Consider the following comments from our Society members:

"For my part, I am deeply interested in history and thus would like to see more historical background on the events commemorated." [I WANT MORE!]

"My main interest is in counterfeit commemoratives, and I was hoping that this new encyclopedia would enumerate and provide detailed diagnostics to help in identifying each and every one of these known fakes." [HE WANTS MORE!]

"Commems are an important part of my specialty, but my foremost interest is in minting errors. I had hoped to see more on die breaks, die clashes, and other interesting errors in the minting of U.S. commems." [SHE WANTS MORE!]

"I am a specialist in die varieties and am particularly interested in U.S. commems. There is not much in the numismatic literature about this subject so I was hoping that Mr. Bowers would publish everything he knows about it in his encyclopedia." Several other variety specialists inquired about the PCGS MS-67 Lafayette dollar (the Shepherd specimen) which appeared on the cover of the previous issue of the Trail. One person wondered why Mr. Bowers did not include Larry Shepherd's Lafayette dollar in his new encyclopedia. [THESE PEOPLE WANT MORE!]

"I'm more interested in memorabilia than in the coins themselves, and I expected that there would be a lot of information about [commem memorabilia] in this encyclopedia than there was. We need a good book on this topic." There were several others who made similar remarks indicating an interest in memorabilia associated with U.S. commemorative coins. [THEY ALL WANT MORE!]

When it comes to information about commems and commemorative memorabilia, it seems we are an insatiably thirsty lot. [WE ALL WANT MORE!]

Perhaps we should sit back and wait for Q. David Bowers to publish volumes II through VI to supplement this first encyclopedic volume (and it is just that, encyclopedic). On the other hand, perhaps some of our members might want to tackle the job of compiling information on one or another of the aforementioned sub-specialties (history, counterfeits, errors, varieties, and memorabilia) and relieve Mr. Bowers of the burden. Clearly, the information is "out there," in the hands of our Society members for the most part -- some of it here, some of it there. Equally clearly, there exists a thirst for more written information about our favorite coinage series on the part of commem specialists everywhere.

As every member of our Society already knows, there is a stong demand for Ray Mercer to publish Volume Three of his immensely popular series, A Buyer's Guide to the Grading & Minting Characteristics of United States Commemorative Coins. If there were some way in which we could capture Ray, stick his head into a turnip-press and squeeze out all that knowledge we crave about commems, we might be tempted. However, there is a better way: If we want Ray to issue Volume Three, we could encourage him by buying the remaining copies of Volumes One and Two.

Similarly, if we want Q. David Bowers to write and publish more about commemorative coins, if we want others to write about counterfeits, varieties, or errors, etc., please remember that they need and deserve our financial support!

This article, "Recommended Writing," may seem a strange way of praising the finest book ever written on U.S. commemorative coins, but it is a way of getting your attention and of reminding you that there are many people who hunger and thirst for knowledge but only a few who take the time to provide that knowledge.

If you feel that you are especially knowledgeable about any aspect of U.S. commems, or commem memorabilia, we would like to hear from you. Passive skills such as reading, listening, or watching are wonderful; however, active skills such as writing, public speaking, or making a presentation are even better. Our Society needs your "active" skills. Is there a better place to start writing than in the pages of the Trail? Is there a better place to share your knowledge than with the members of our Society? Is there a better place to give a slide presentation or a talk than at a meeting of our Society?

You don't have to start by writing your own encyclopedia; however, if you are sincerely interested in writing about some aspect of commems, we should like to publish your article in the Trail. Also, we may be able to put you in touch with others who share your exact interests. If you are worried about the mundane aspects of grammar and punctuation, don't! The Trail staff will work with you on those trivial matters. The important thing is to focus on your knowledge of commems and to share that knowledge with your fellow Society members.

Maybe you are not ready to write an article because "It will take too much time," "I'm too busy," or, "I don't know how." On the other hand, maybe you are absolutely ready! Good! Sit down right now and start working on it -- after all, the purpose of this article is to recommend that YOU write! The pleasure of sharing one's knowledge so far outweighs the burdens of "ownership" of possessions as to be laughable. To own, merely to "own," is to be a squirrel who has saved his acorns; to share knowledge is to become a human being!

* * * * * RECOMMENDED VIEWING * * * * *

Increasingly, since the advent of VCRs, educational information is becoming available on videotapes. This new educational medium has truly come of age and there is much to be learned by studying the videotapes now available. In our case, as numismatists and commem enthusiasts, we are blessed with a wide variety of interesting and informational videotapes pertaining to our hobby.

Thanks to the personal efforts of Society member DAVID LISOT (R-0336, CO), and his firm, ADVISION, Inc., there are dozens, perhaps hundreds, of videotapes available on numismatics and many other collectibles hobbies (stamps, postcards, automobiles, boxing, treasures, sportscards, and others as well). David and his camera crew have become a familiar sight on the bourse floor at major coin shows and at meetings of our Society.

Over the course of years David has tirelessly recorded for posterity many exciting lectures and presentations. He has worked with the American Numismatic Association to tape the "Numismatic Theatre"; with the Professional Numismatists Guild in an ongoing series called "PNG Living History" (featuring such notables as Jerry Cohen, John Ford, Harry Forman, Leon Hendrickson, Abner Kreisberg, Sam Lopresto, John Love, William Fox Steinberg, Harlan White, and others); with the Industry Council for Tangible Assets; with the National Silver Dollar Roundtable; and has recorded many delightful personal interviews with the luminaries of our hobby -- from coast to coast.

Of special interest to our Society, David Lisot has produced videotapes of presentations by, or interviews with, Society members ALBERT K. HALL, RAY MERCER, MARY SAUVAIN, LARRY J. SHEPHERD, ANTHONY SWIATEK, and ROBERT VAN RYZIN, to name a few.

With the goal in mind of sharing with our readers information about this exciting educational medium, the Trail staff contacted David and asked him to send us a listing of all videotapes currently available from ADVISION, Inc., and specifically requested a listing of videotapes pertaining to commemorative coins. He responded promptly: We received enough information to fill thirty or more pages of the Trail, which is obviously beyond our capacity. However, as the next best option, we asked David whether he would be willing to send similar informational listings to our members, upon request, and he graciously agreed to do so.

We cannot overemphasize the importance of building personal libraries and group lending-libraries consisting not only of the traditional printed materials but also the newer forms of "storing" information magnetically on audio tapes, videotapes, and computer floppy-discs.

One of the most interesting aspects of a videotape, as compared with a book, is that it can be shared by everyone within "earshot or eyeshot." What a wonderful way by which to introduce others to our hobby! It is impossible to "share" a book at a coin club meeting; a videotape can be shared by everyone present. For information about videotapes now available -- a new "tool in the arsenal of our hobby" -- write to David Lisot, ADVISION, Inc., 3100 Arrowwood Lane, Boulder, CO 80303, or telephone him at (303) 444-2320. Please mention our Society.

We are proud of the achievements of Society member David Lisot, a pioneer in recording for posterity on videotapes the "living history" of today!

It must have been stirring indeed to have watched the two great armies marching and riding, with flags waving and music playing, as they headed toward a dreadful day of destiny near Sharpsburg, Maryland, along Antietam Creek. By the end of the day, September 17, 1862, nearly 25,000 men were lost in the Battle of Antietam, commemorated 75 years later on the coin shown above. The battle, which was really a series of battles, began early in the morning when General Joseph Hooker, riding his white horse as always, led an attack on Confederate forces near Dunker Chapel, just north of Sharpsburg. Attacking in a broad front and coming south along the Hagerstown Pike, Hooker's men engaged the Confederate troops who were defending two clumps of trees. A Confederate survivor remembers: "The Federals in apparent double battle line were moving toward us at charge bayonets, common time, and the sunbeams falling on their well-polished guns and bayonets gave a show at once fearful and entrancing." At that moment, batteries on both sides opened fire. "Fighting Joe" Hooker was wounded but survived the day to write that "Every stalk of corn in the greater part of the field was cut as closely as could have been done with a knife, and the slain lay in rows as precisely as they had stood in their ranks a few moments before."

Battery "A" of the 1st Rhode Island Artillery laid down a murderous fire, destroying a Confederate battery. Moments later the "courtesy" was returned, and in a matter of minutes the 12th Massachusetts had lost 224 of its 334 men. Out in the corn field, however, the rebels were fleeing for their lives under the intense and continuing attack by "Fighting Joe Hooker." It was then that General Jackson, in desperation, threw into the battle the last of his reserves, Hood's Texans. John Bell Hood led the counterattack that broke the Union assault, but at a terrible price: sixty percent of his division. After his counterattack he was asked, "Where is your division?" General Hood replied, "Dead on the field."

It was now 10 a.m., and the battle had already surged fifteen times across the corn field; more than 8,000 men lay dead or wounded. Here, on General Lee's left flank, the troops on both sides were exhausted and were unable to continue.

Lee ordered his center to hold at all costs. The commander of the 6th Alabama, Colonel Gordon, who was holding that position, replied that his men would hold until "the sun goes down or victory is won." Lee's center held because of Col. John B. Gordon and the 6th Alabama, and the battle shifted farther south, to Lee's right flank, and to a stone bridge across Antietam Creek. Before following that turn of battle, however, let us pause for a moment on Lee's center. Col. Gordon wrote about having watched the Federal forces form in front of him, in battle lines four deep, and said, "The brave Union commander, superbly mounted, placed himself in front, while his band cheered them with martial music. I thought, 'What a pity to spoil with bullets such a scene of martial beauty!'" Gordon, a masterful leader, withheld fire until the enemy were within easy killing range and then let loose a scything fire that instantly killed the Union commander and broke the attack. The Union forces rallied and attacked Gordon's position five times. Gordon, himself, was wounded several times during these attacks. First he was shot in the right leg, then again in the right leg, then in the left arm, and then through the shoulder. He hobbled along his lines, steadying his men, refusing all aid, and holding Lee's center as he had promised to do. Later he wrote that he was finally shot down by a "fifth ball which struck me squarely in the face." Gordon fell forward, unconscious, with his face bleeding into his cap; but for a Yankee bullet hole, which let the blood run out, he later thought that he might have smothered in his own blood. The 6th Alabama held Lee's center but in so doing left a causeway of corpses which led one contemporary to remark that, "We could have walked a mile on them, without setting a foot on the ground." At this point in the battle, Lee's left flank was incapacitated and his center was shattered. A slight push by General McClellan on either of these fronts would have crushed Lee and probably ended the war immediately. McClellan, who had massive numbers of men in reserve, felt such a push would be "imprudent," and thereby snatched Defeat from the Jaws of Victory.

The battle then shifted to the southeast, with the fighting focused at the bridge across Antietam Creek. General Ambrose Burnside, with 12,500 men, began a series of bloody charges trying to cross the bridge, which was defended by 400 crack Georgians who held the high ground. On the fifth attempt he succeeded and began pressuring the last Confederate line before Sharpsburg; it broke and the defenders began to run. The 9th New York Volunteers (the Fire Zouaves) led the action that afternoon, which nearly severed the southern line of retreat to the Potomac. General Lee watched from a hilltop as his right flank, under the command of General Robert A. Toombs, was shattered. Lee, who must have been despairing, noticed a large column approaching from the south and asked an aide, who was viewing the newcomers through a telescope, "Whose troops are those?" "They are flying the Virginia and Confederate flags, sir!" It was A. P. Hill and his 3,000 men, arriving on a forced march of 17 miles from Harpers Ferry, where they had sacked the Federal arsenal. Many were dressed in Union Blue, and the Federals held fire until it was too late. As this fresh rebel army, footsore but intact, hurled itself against his flank, Burnside pleaded for the reinforcements McClellan had promised him. McClellan responded, "It would not be prudent." Burnside had no choice but to fall back to the stone bridge, which now bears his name, and by nightfall the positions held by the opposing sides were not much different than when the day began.

Eighteen generals, nine Union and nine Confederate, fell that day, dead or wounded. McClellan's casualties were 12,426 (dead, wounded, or missing); Lee's were 10,318 -- nearly a fourth of his army! By nightfall, the battle-lines, as they would appear on an army map, remained relatively unchanged as a result of the day's "activities." However, in human terms the change was stark, and the

results of the day's battles were heaped and piled in indescribably horrible masses of carnage; bodies were everywhere. The shattered skulls, the broken bones, the burned or exploded flesh, the empty eye sockets, the blank stares of the dead and the living alike, the whinnying of downed horses, the pathetic mewling pleas of wounded men, who asked only for water or begged for some merciful soul to put an end to the pain and suffering, the smell of death and of voided bowels and bladders, the stench of burned flesh of men and horses alike, the rank stink of sweat, the cloying scent of flowing blood, and everywhere, the acrid smell of of wood smoke spreading from still burning copses, and the clinging acrid smell of gunpowder -- this was Sharpsburg, this was Antietam, and this was the Glory of War.

(Photo courtesy of Bill Fivaz)

* * * * * SHOW REPORTS * * * * *

The final two major coin shows of 1992 at which we regularly hold Society meetings and regarding which we regularly include "show reports" in the Trail are now both a matter of history. In this issue we are happy to be able to provide our readers with reports on these two important events. The magnificent ANA Centennnial Convention was covered by both Mike Garofalo and Helen L. Carmody. Mike has supplied us with a splendid and thoughtful narrative of the ANA show, and Helen has done her normal job of chasing down dealers' comments and wholesale prices at that show. Helen also has reported on the Long Beach Expo held in October and as usual has submitted her typically interesting and provocative report. Without further ado, the Trail turns to Rosemont and then to Long Beach.

American Numismatic Association Centennial Convention -- August 1991

by Michael K. Garofalo (LM-23, NH)

The ANA's annual convention is considered by many to be the most important show of the year. In my humble opinion, all of the ANAs that I have attended (nine, so far) pale by comparison to this show. The ANA and the local (Chicago, IL) coin clubs worked diligently to ensure that this show was one to remember!

Was the market H-O-T? NO! Were prices gyrating wildly? NO! Were the precious metals moving up dramatically? Absolutely not! Then why was this such a good show for most dealers? It was because the ANA made certain that every coin collector who attended this show would view great exhibits, would have a chance to meet and greet many numismatic luminaries, and would have the opportunity to see and purchase from among a choice of literally hundreds of thousands of coins.

Billed as "Chicago," we were actually located in Rosemont, Illinois. The facility, the Rosemont Convention Center, was excellent. All dealers were conveniently situated in one large room. Smoking was not permitted on the bourse floor, and there was an adequate number of food and refreshment stands.

As to the show itself, although it started on a somewhat sluggish note, the activity level picked up considerably by Thursday. Public attendance throughout the show was excellent; it was estimated at over 21,000 public attendees for the entire six days.

Many of the dealers had attended the spectacular "Larry Shepherd Sale" of silver commemorative coins, however, I didn't see many pedigreed specimens from

this sale offered on the bourse floor. I assume they all found "good homes."

Why was "The Collector is Back!" the common refrain heard from the dealers in attendance? Probably because the overwhelming majority of attendees were indeed collectors. It has been a number of years since I have seen as many individuals strolling up and down the bourse floor carrying inventory sheets, notebooks, and want-lists. The conventional wisdom is that most collectors stopped buying coins in 1989, when prices began to skyrocket. Many collectors look at 1991 prices and realize that many MS-65 coins are selling at 1985 levels! That is evident in all series, but commemoratives have been especially hard hit. We should face it folks, COINS ARE CHEAP! Are they going to get cheaper?

Well, my Crystal Ball is in the shop, so I can't tell you (and that's not a subject we discuss in this journal anyway!). With good weather, good attendance, and easy access to the host city, the ingredients were there for a great show -- and it was! Now, I'll turn the floor over to Helen L. Carmody so that she can tell you about the dealers' comments and the wholesale transactions.

American Numismatic Association Centennial Convention -- August 1991

by Helen L. Carmody (R-0007, CA)

Thank you Mike, I agree wholeheartedly with you; this was a magnificent convention!

Overall, trading appeared to be satisfactory to both collectors and dealers. Prices were low enough for collectors to feel that purchases were real bargains, and dealers were pleased that collectors turned out in such strong numbers. The only complaints seemed to be that (1) choice pieces were not in line with current levels and that (2) a few isolated dealers did not have coins displayed to give purchasers an idea as to the contents and scope of their inventories. A sampling of dealer comments follows:

"The show was very strong in collector coins (MS-63 and MS-64). There was a lot of demand, and I pretty quickly sold out of that material. Collectors were aware that Bookers and Carvers were at bargain levels, and I sold $2,500 in Carvers -- all in MS-64."

"It seemed to me that going back and looking at auction and show activity, there were two extremes that sold well. Real rarities were very strong at one end and, at the other, coins under $500. It was the 'in-between' coins (in the $1,500 to $2,000 range) that seemed not to be moving very well."

"On the selling side, the MS-63 - MS-65 were weak. Of the total commems I bought at the show, I sold only 20%, so I'm bringing home 80%. There really wasn't a lot of retail interest in commems. Dealers did make a market, but they were at levels where it was difficult to get together to make a deal."

"I felt a great majority of the commems on the bourse had been 'pushed up' at least one grade. The few pieces I found that were really choice commanded as much as 50% above bid, mainly because they had great eye appeal for the issue and lovely toning."

"The scarcer issues were impossible to locate. At these prices, though, it is easy to understand why dealers are holding them back. However, it is

difficult to explain to customers at home why I can't fill their want lists. At this point they feel frustrated, and, what's more, so do I!"

"I was really delighted with the collector turnout. We were busy throughout the show. As it was, we were pleased with the results. If there were more properly graded commems available at prevailing bid levels or at a reasonable percentage above, our sales would have been exceptionally good instead of just good. There were the usual 'lookers,' but they were greatly outnumbered by collectors who had come to buy."

There is always some disparity with respect to activity at any given show. The reader should come to his own conclusions by evaluating the wholesale prices paid and the general consensus of those dealers who kindly volunteered their time to take part in this survey.

Some examples of wholesale trading are as follows:

Lafayette	(NGC	MS-65)	$ 9,250
Alabama 2x2	(NGC	MS-64)	$ 1,750
Arkansas (1937-S)	(PCGS	MS-65)	$ 900
Bay Bridge	(NGC	MS-64)	$ 175
Bay Bridge	(ANACS	MS-65)	$ 375
Boone (1936-D)	(PGCS	MS-65)	$ 250
California Jubilee	(NGC	MS-63)	$ 125
California Jubilee	(PCGS	MS-63)	$ 190
Columbia, S.C. (1936-S)	(NGC	MS-65)	$ 280
Connecticut	(PCGS	MS-65)	$ 650
Delaware	(Raw	MS-65)	$ 475
Elgin	(PCGS	MS-66)	$ 1,750
Grant	(Raw	MS-64)	$ 380
Grant with Star	(PCGS	MS-63)	$ 1,900
Lincoln	(NGC	MS-63)	$ 80
Lynchburg	(NGC	MS-65)	$ 480
Missouri 2x4 (Shepherd Specimen)	(PCGS	MS-65)	$10,000
New Rochelle	(NGC	MS-64)	$ 350
Norfolk	(PCGS	MS-66)	$ 575
Oregon Trail (1926-S)	(NGC	MS-64)	$ 111
Oregon Trail (1934-D)	(PCGS	MS-67)	$ 3,600
Oregon Trail (1936-S)	(Raw	MS-65)	$ 250
Oregon Trail (1937-D)	(PCGS	MS-65)	$ 255
Pan-Pac	(PCGS	MS-61)	$ 270
Roanoke	(PCGS	MS-65)	$ 260
San Diego (1936-D)	(PCGS	MS-66)	$ 1,925
Stone Mountain	(NGC	MS-65)	$ 225
Texas (1934)	(PCGS	MS-65)	$ 210
Texas (1936-D)	(Raw	MS-65)	$ 240
Booker T. Washington (1946-S)	(NGC	MS-65)	$ 46
Booker T. Washington (1946-S)	(PCGS	MS-66)	$ 1,500
Booker T. Washington (1947)	(PCGS	MS-65)	$ 450
Booker T. Washington (1950-S)	(PCGS	MS-65)	$ 55
Booker T. Washington (1951)	(NGC	MS-64)	$ 65
Carver/Washington (1951-1954-S)	(NGC	MS-64)	$ 1,200
Carver/Washington (1951)	(PCGS	MS-63)	$ 30
Carver/Washington (1953-S)	(NGC	MS-64)	$ 35
Carver/Washington (1954-D)	(NGC	MS-65)	$ 550

Carver/Washington (1954-S)	(PCGS	MS-64)	$ 85
York	(PCGS	MS-63)	$ 170
York	(NGC	MS-65)	$ 210
York	(PCGS	MS-65)	$ 250

Long Beach Expo - October

by Helen L. Carmody (R-0007, CA)

Will prices continue to decline? Will the desired material be available? Will the usual dealers be transacting business? All these questions were being posed prior to the opening of the Long Beach Expo (October 10-13, 1991). The three-times-a-year convention is considered by many to be the most productive gathering of dealers and collectors in the entire country. If business is to be done, Long Beach is the place to do it.

However, this time the cards were stacked against the house. Conditions were definitely less than encouraging, with not only dealers but collectors as well feeling cautious concerning the state of the economy. A very respectable 15,362 attendance showed the always-positive results of Sam Lopresto and his fine staff in drawing the necessary crowds in what can be termed as only a lackluster and down market.

Yet general reports ranged from "fair" to "good" to "better than anticipated." For most shows such ratings would be considered superior given the market, but Long Beach strives for singular excellence. If the show had a flaw, it was not in its operation; the whole country is suffering, and "discretionary" income is not as plentiful as usual.

In fact, when questioned, most dealers reported doing more business than they had expected. However, the "yardstick" by which Long Beach Expos are measured is significantly longer than those used by any other promoter or sponsoring numismatic organization.

The dealers canvassed regarding commemorative coins had mostly positive comments:

"There were a lot of commems available, but there were not a lot of nice ones available. I wasn't able to find the commems I needed, some of which were even the most common -- nice eye appeal and some color but not too much. I bought only four, and I shopped the floor for the entire show. Most dealers were buying exclusively for want-lists, and I was not able to fill mine."

"I thought the coins with nice eye appeal brought strong prices, 10-30% over bid, no matter what the grade. Those that were dull were probably closer to bid. 'Wonder coins' brought double bid."

"There was a lot of strength in the sight-unseen market. Several major dealers were buying commems in large volume and at considerable premiums anywhere around bid. Buying in quantities was being done at premiums of 10-30% in most cases."

"We never lacked for customers during the entire four days. They had cash in hand but wanted specific coins. Our problem was in finding the coins

that were correctly graded and had the necessary eye appeal and toning."

"Frankly, the show was as good as you could expect given market conditions, but we are at a stalemate. I really don't know how long it will be until buyers and sellers can get together on prices."

"Everything I found on customer's want-lists was either overgraded or 50% above bid. My clients expect to pay a premium, but with my 15%, how can I ask them to pay 65% over what they anticipate will be the purchase price?"

"There was a lot of looking, but buyers were very specific. If you didn't have what they wanted, it was hard to steer them into something else. They were looking to fill specific needs but still very tentative about buying something unless they really needed it."

"Everybody agreed throughout the entire show that the market was quite slow. It was almost unamimous; the general consensus was that commems were the strongest segment of the market."

Some examples of wholesale trading are as follows:

Lafayette	(PCGS MS-62)	$ 725
Alabama 2x2	(PCGS MS-63)	$ 550
Alabama 2x2	(PCGS MS-64)	$ 1,000
Albany	(PCGS MS-67)	$ 5,000
Bay Bridge	(NGC MS-65)	$ 410
Boone (1935/4)	(PCGS MS-67)	$ 2,750
Boone (1937-D)	(PCGS MS-67)	$ 2,500
Boone (1937-S)	(PCGS MS-66)	$ 900
Boone (1938-S)	(PCGS MS-67)	$ 2,600
Bridgeport	(NGC MS-65)	$ 375
Columbian Expo (1892)	(NGC MS-65)	$ 2,850
Delaware	(NGC MS-66)	$ 1,650
Gettysburg	(NGC MS-65)	$ 630
Pan-Pac	(PCGS MS-64)	$ 1,050
Robinson	(PCGS MS-66)	$ 1,750
Booker T. Washington (1946-S)	(PCGS MS-67)	$ 2,150
Booker T. Washington (1949)	(NCG MS-64)	$ 70
Booker T. Washington (1950-S) P/L	(NGC MS-64)	$ 225
Carver-Washington (1953-S)	(PCGS MS-66)	$ 700

Commemorative Memorabilia:

Columbian Expo Ticket (Columbus)	$ 20
Columbian Expo Ticket (Handel)	$ 43
Four P.P.I.E. Tickets	$ 10
Incomplete Book of San Diego Tickets	$ 35

[Please take note that all prices reported in "Show Reports" for commems and related memorabilia are wholesale prices unless otherwise noted. When this material is offered for resale at the retail level, it is reasonable to expect price increases of from 15% to 30% for the most common items to much higher mark-ups for truly scarce or esoteric material.]

* * *

* * * * * DONATIONS * * * * *

Our sincere gratitude to the following members, whose thoughtful donations greatly aid our efforts to provide you with the "best buy in numismatics":

$00.00 to $24.99

Albright, Jr., Walter R.
Coultrip, Richard W.
Fulgenz, Mike
Iversen, Phil
Kinslow, Robert A.
Kovar, Martin A.
Mullins, James D. (for "The Carmody Award")
Ricard, Charles J.
Robinett, Roger
Tipka, Vernon L.
Whelan, Jim

$25.00 to $49.99

Kendrick, Marion F.
Robertson, D. Chris
Roth, Philip
Yahalom, Mary & Jerry
Zaumeyer, Jr. John

$100 and Over

Carmody, Helen L.
Garofalo, Michael K. (for "The Carmody Award)
Mercer, Ray (for "The Carmody Award)

You will note that certain individuals have asked that their donations be used exclusively as designated. ["The Carmody Award" is covered elsewhere in this issue.] You too have that option. If you cannot spare the time to assist our club, a donation is the next best thing! Your name will then appear in the next issue of the Trail. Please make your check payable to "SUSCC" and specify whatever purpose you may desire as a memo on your check. Make sure your check is properly dated (this is the time of year when we all seem to use last year's date) and mail it to Helen L. Carmody (see inside front cover for address).

In addition to cash contributions, our Society also benefits from donations "in kind." Here are but a few examples:

Richard A. Bacca	$ 200 +	(forms, services, & expenses)
Roy T. Iwata	$ 200 +	(photos, services, & expenses)
Bill Fivaz	$ 300 +	(photos, services, & expenses)
Yitzchak Gedalowitz	$ 365 +	(auction proceeds)
Q. David Bowers	$ 500 +	(discounts, services, & expenses)
David Lisot	$ 500 +	(videotapes, services, & expenses)
Larry Goldberg	$ 1000 +	(slides, catalogs, & expenses)
Larry J. Shepherd	$ 1000 +	(slides, catalogs, & expenses)
Sam Lopresto	$ Kilobucks!	(please see following paragraph)

We could write pages about the individuals who have quietly and privately contributed to our Society their time, effort, services, and money. If it had not been for them, our Society probably would not exist today. By way of giving you an example of the importance of these contributions, let's examine a case in point: Sam Lopresto and his giant Long Beach Expo. Since our Society's founding in 1983, we have regularly held three meetings each year at the Long Beach Expos. Who paid for our meeting room? Sam! At most of those meetings we have had available a projector and a screen. Who paid for them? Sam! If you have attended a Society meeting at Long Beach, you have probably had a cup of coffee, or Sanka, or tea -- and this for free! Who paid for that? Sam! On either side of those great urns of coffee and hot water were trays of donuts, sweet rolls, and other pastries -- and by the end of each meeting, the trays were empty! The pastries were not grease-soaked "gut-busters." Rather, they were delights from Heaven -- the best that money could buy. Who bought them? Sam!

Well, run this through your calculator: In 1983 it cost our Society $65 to rent a projector for one hour. Talk to any show promoter and you'll learn that an urn of coffee costs $100 to $150 -- "sinkers" are extra. Room rental, hmmm, "Big Bucks!" OK, so how much did it cost our Society to hold 24 meetings at the Long Beach Expos? Nothing! Sam paid for it! Words cannot express our thanks to Sam Lopresto and the others associated with the Long Beach Expo.

We have also received gifts of materials, which will be offered for sale in our next Society auction for the benefit of our treasury. We'll give you the details of that auction in the next issue of the Trail. Meanwhile we'd like to acknowledge the following contributions:

CARL R. FUNK (R-1996, WA) donated a PCGS MS-65 1950-S Booker T. Washington half dollar.

BRAD KAROLEFF (R-0364, KY) donated a copy of The Oregon Trail Memorial Half-Dollar (1926 - 1939), by Bert Webber, and a boxed chip of granite from the figure of General Lee on the Stone Mountain Confederate Memorial.

RICHARD N. NACHBAR (LM-29, NY) donated a 2-coin holder, commemorative listing, and a Connecticut box.

KEITH WILLIAMSON (R-0196, CA) donated a General Grant Centenary medal.

JERRY and MARY YAHALOM (R-1060, R1784, CA) donated an official souvenir California Jubilee medal.

What do these gifts mean to the Society? To illustrate, let's run down the results of our last auction:

Lot #1 - Booker T. Washington/Mardi Gras Envelope (estimated value $25.00) reaped $40.00; the winning bid was from Jerry and Mary Yahalom.

Lot #2 - Stone Mountain Documentation (estimated value: $200+) enriched our treasury by $325; the winning bid was from Bill Shamhart (R-0033, DE).

Thank you to the winners for exceeding the estimates with your generous bids. A VERY BIG THANKS to YITZCHAK GEDALOWITZ (R-0467, MD), who made it all possible by donating the items. We are deeply appreciative of the donations of cash, materials, and services. We thank each of you who have helped!

* * * * * OTHER CLUBS * * * * *

From time to time we include in the pages of the Trail information about other coin clubs. In this issue we report on two clubs of current interest.

Women In Numismatics (WIN)

by Gloria Peters (R-1169, CA)

"WIN was formed with one thought ... To promote women in the numismatic field. The response to this simple idea has really been wonderful. We have nearly fifty members and have received the support of the numismatic community. The backing of PNG, Long Beach Expos, FUN, ANA, and many more have shown me that this simple idea is one whose time has come." ... Teresa Darling, President.

The past few months have been exciting as we designed the organization's by-laws and published our first newsletter. Members and non-members are invited to attend WIN meetings at seven major shows; and also to contribute to the WIN newsletter with articles which will interest our readership. Membership is $50 per year and is open to males and females over the age of eighteen. To receive an application and courtesy copy of the WIN Newsletter, please write to Mary Sauvain, WIN Secretary, P.O. Box 25910, Colorado Springs, CO 80936.

Texas Numismatic Association

by Randall Jack Moore (R-1792, CA) [TNA R-5384]

Recently the Texas Numismatic Association (TNA) had to suspend publication of its then monthly magazine, The TNA News, because of the resignation its editor and because of a worsening financial situation. We very are happy to report that publication of The TNA News resumed in November, albeit in a newsletter format (and with an undetermined periodicity). That's the good news. The bad news is that TNA still does not have an editor and is still very short of funds. For the moment, TNA's hard-working President RAYMOND E. WHYBORN (R-2068, TX) is doing double-duty. Ray writes: "If you have any skills, talent, or expertise that can contribute toward getting a bimonthly newsletter published ... please let me hear from you!" TNA Secretary CHRIS JOHNS (R-2061, TX), already overburdened with her secretarial duties, is currently helping Ray with the publishing task.

Ray noted: "I am terribly inexperienced, and have far more Association administrative details than I can handle. I am doing this task only because it must be done and because I believe deeply in its need ... Please don't let our only line of communication with our members die for lack of your interest and involvement. We need YOU and we need you NOW!!!"

Without a periodic publication of its own, and without adequate financial support, no association can survive for long. TNA is in desperate and immediate need of an editor, an assistant editor, and of financial contributions. If you think this appeal to help TNA is addressed only to our fifty-some Society members who live in Texas, think again. It is addressed to each of you, no matter where you live.

This writer believes it is of critical importance to our hobby nationally that our state and regional associations remain viable. A few years ago, the Arizona State Numismatic Association went "belly up." It has not yet been

revived. It is almost impossible to revitalize a state association once it has failed. If we allow TNA to fail for want of support, sooner or later we will all regret it.

Put very simply, if we allow any one state association to fail, our hobby will be diminished; lines of communication will be broken; our hobby's infrastructure will be damaged incrementally -- perhaps beyond repair; and each and every one of us who enjoys our hobby will be affected adversely. I sincerely believe that it is in the best interest of every collector, every dealer, every auction company, every investor, and every numismatic publication to ensure that TNA survives its current crises. Why? Consider the alternative. It is often useful when pondering a trend to let your "mind's eye" take that trend to its extreme. Let's do that now. Suppose that all of the state and regional associations have failed and that the ANA itself is now an "endangered species." What do you suppose would be the result? Well, certainly we would be confronted with shattered lines of communications; we would have far fewer major and minor coin shows; we would have a tougher time in trying to persuade dealers or collectors to attend the remaining shows and auctions; and we would all have fewer places at which we could buy or sell coins. You get the idea. If you want to help TNA please give Ray Whyborn a call at (817) 888-5156, or write to:

Raymond E. Whyborn
Texas Numismatic Association
411 West Reiman Street
Seymour, TX 76380-2439

Chris Johns
Texas Numismatic Association
P.O. Box 90156
Houston, TX 77090-0156

At left is shown the 1991 TNA Convention medal. The theme of this medal is "Texas Patriots." It was designed by TNA Medals Officer, FRANK GALINDO (R-2060, TX), who can be reached at P.O. Box 12217, San Antonio, TX 78212. The medal portrays President Sam Houston and Vice President Lorenzo De Zavala of the Republic of Texas, and the monument commemorating the Battle of San Jacinto, which won for Texas its independence from Mexico in 1836. There are medals from some past conventions -- we hope there will be one for the 1992 TNA Convention as well. For info, contact Frank Galindo.

The 1992 TNA Convention is slated for April 24-26 at the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth. For bourse information contact Everett Hull, P.O. Box 9107, Fort Worth, TX 76147, or telephone him at his shop at (817) 336-1782.

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* * * * * IN FUTURE ISSUES * * * * *

Many months ago Society member RICK WILCOX (R-1325, TX) submitted to the Trail a three-page article on the Texas Centennial half dollar. Rick is an ardent supporter of our Society and his many contributions have graced the pages of past issues of the Trail. Rick's latest article was written in fun, in the good-natured "Texas bellows" manner. Rick noted, "It was hard writing this article with such an unbiased view." Had he left the matter at that, "just another Texan blowin' wind," we probably would have published his article immediately and then have forgotten about it. Such was not the case, for Rick went on to touch on some very serious matters. For example, he wrote: "The United States

was fortunate that Sam Houston and Stephen Austin had their hearts in the U.S. If they had worked towards a strong separate independent country, who knows what the future could have been. The event of April 21, 1836 [Battle of San Jacinto], was one of the most important events in the history of the United States. This event opened the door for the United States to take from Mexico the rest of the land west of Texas ... [to the Pacific]."

Rick's remarks about the impact of events in Texas upon the destiny of the United States were, if anything, grossly understated. Traditionally, the history of the American Southwest has been inadequately and inaccurately reported upon. Rather, it has been subject to the worst sort of mistruths, half-truths, outright lies, and omissions in our school textbooks and our history books. What else would you expect? We've all heard the cliche, "To the victor belongs the spoils!" As it were, one of those "spoils" is the privilege to write the history books -- the "right" to bend the truth to suit the victor. As a result, much of what has been published in the United States about the history of the Southwest has been written by authors representing the point of view (some might call it the "mind set") of our nation's British heritage and culture. The influence of other cultures, including native American, French, and Spanish, upon the development of our nation, as we know it today, has been almost completely obscured by writers (the victors) who, although born in America, have stubbornly adhered to a "mind set" which has its roots in England many centuries ago.

It would be simplistic to view the independence of Texas as merely another local event which occurred outside the framework of the larger, global picture. It was much more than merely a local event and it was possible only because of other events which preceded it. In its own turn, the independence of Texas precipitated subsequent events which had an enormous impact upon the fulfillment of Jeffersonian and Jacksonian dreams of America's "Manifest Destiny" and upon the subsequent course of world history.

We have expanded Rick's brief article into a major series, the first part of which <u>will</u> appear (come Hell or High Water) in the next issue of the <u>Trail</u>. The series will delve into the history of the American Southwest, in general, and the history of Texas, in particular. It will look behind the scenes of the myths and legends about Texas and will ask some hard questions and suggest some harder answers. For example, "Was the fall of the Alamo important to the 30,000 contemporary Anglo-Texans?" Yes and no! Yes, because the event sent most Anglo-Texans fleeing to the comparative safety of the U.S. in what Texans now refer to as the "Runaway Scrape." No, because Texans did not bother themselves with burying the remains of the Alamo dead until a year had passed -- and then it was Colonel Juan Seguin (a Mexican-Texan whose local Mexican cavalry fought against General Santa Anna) who gathered the ashes, bones, and buttons, and interred the remains. Pompeo Coppini ranted and raved against "revisionist historians" (Texans, all) who prevented him in the 1930s from perpetrating <u>some</u> of the myths he wanted to include on the Cenotaph (we have a transcript of a radio broadcast which will be of interest to our readers). Other questions? Was Santa Anna a Mason? Did Crockett surrender at the Alamo? Was Bowie already dead before the battle began? Was Travis in uniform? Why was President Jackson spying on his friend, Sam Houston? Why did Coppini misrepresent the Alamo on his coin? What happened to the original copy of the Constitution of the Republic of Texas? How many "defenders" survived the Alamo? How many died there? How many escaped and were not included in the "death toll?" What was the origination of the "Lone Star State?" Did it arise from hatred toward the dual-star state of Coahuila & Texas? We'll have answers in our Texas series. Homer says, "It's neat stuff!"

* * * * * NAME THAT COMMEM! * * * * *

As we have done in the past toward the end of the Trail, we once again leave you with an XCU to ponder until time for the next issue. Homer recognized the "chicken feet" scratching in the ... Well, you know about chickens.
(Photo courtesy of Bill Fivaz)

* *

S O C I E T Y A N N O U N C E M E N T

Overleaf you'll find a sheet containing three of the new Society membership application forms designed by Dick Bacca. We included three, rather than just one, in order to minimize your photocopying expenses. What expenses? Read on! We'd like to ask each of our members to head for the nearest copy machine and to run off copies of Dick's triple-application form. Before you do so, however, you might want to add your signature and membership number as "proposer," so we can give you credit when the forms "come home" with a dues check attached.

Some ideas? Well, you could take a stack of these forms with you to club meetings, along with a copy of the Trail -- so folks would know what they might expect as a member of our Society. You could take forms along with you to coin shows and put some out on the "public information table" or the "club table." You might even want to hand a form (or two) to each bourse dealer who displays commems in his cases. If you really want to have fun and pique the interest of bourse dealers who are not yet members of our Society, you could innocently inquire about "that" Lafayette dollar, while scanning Frank DuVall's article on "The Lafayette Dollar Varieties." [See the Trail, Summer-1991, Vol. 7, #2.] Well, you get the idea! You might even want to take a tour of local coin shops and spend a few minutes explaining the Trail and our Society and to ask local dealers to pass along our membership forms to their commem customers. Now that Dick Bacca has made the effort to create these forms, it's up to us to see that they reach the right people!

... and now the Trail forks ... to a thousand copy machines!

Application for Membership

Society For U.S. Commemorative Coins

P.O. Box 302

Huntington Beach, CA 92648

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

I hereby make application for membership in the Society For U.S. Commemorative Coins, subject to the bylaws of said Society. My yearly dues (August to August of each year at $15.00 per Adult and $5.00 per Junior) are included with this application in the form of ____ cash ____ check.

Check one: ☐ Adult ☐ Junior

Please Print or Type

Last name _____

First name _____ M.I. _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Daytime Telephone ( ) –

Signature of Applicant _____

Date _____

Signature of Proposer _____ Member Number _____

Birth Date – Junior members only

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

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Society For U.S. Commemorative Coins

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State _____ Zip Code _____

Daytime Telephone ( ) –

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Date _____

Signature of Proposer _____ Member Number _____

Birth Date – Junior members only

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Application for Membership

Society For U.S. Commemorative Coins

P.O. Box 302

Huntington Beach, CA 92648

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Check one: ☐ Adult ☐ Junior

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Daytime Telephone ( ) –

Signature of Applicant _____

Date _____

Signature of Proposer _____ Member Number _____

Birth Date – Junior members only

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